



# Silent Women



Gu ru 'phrin las

# *ASIAN HIGHLANDS PERSPECTIVES*

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COVER: Young woman (Smin thang (Mentang) Township, Gcig sgril (Jiuzhi) County, Mgo log (Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Mtsho sngon (Qinghai) Province, PR China; ལུ་རུ་ཤལ་ལྷོ་གྲོང་ཁྱེར་ (Gu ru 'phrin las)

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Gu ru 'phrin las is a Tibetan from a pastoral Plateau herding community (4,000 MSL) - Smin thang (Mentang) Township, Gcig sgril (Jiuzhi) County, Mgo log (Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Mtsho sngon (Qinghai) Province, PR China. His mother gave birth to him in a black yak-hair tent near the Yellow River at his family's summer camp at the foot of a high mountain.

His family had one hundred yaks, fifty sheep, and ten horses when he was a child. In 2023, his family has no sheep, 100 yaks, and ten horses. His parents herded the sheep, yaks, and horses until his older sisters were old enough to do this. His mother cooked and cleaned while his paternal grandmother cared for Guru and his four siblings.

Fifty herding households lived in his community, seasonally moving from summer to winter camps, transporting belongings by pack yaks, and riding horses and yaks. Wealthier families began building stone houses in their winter camps in 1995. Soon, most families lived in winter camp houses and tents in the summer pastures.

His family lived in a tent until they hired construction workers to build a one-story packed-earth house in their winter pasture in 1997. The house had a room where his family lived, cooked, ate, and slept; a shrine; and a storeroom. They slept on cushions on a wooden floor.

His family's main foods were roasted barley flour, meat, and dairy products. The men bought barley, rice, and wheat flour from the local county town and brought the food home on yaks. It took about five days. The women roasted barley in a metal pot on an adobe stove and ground it with a stone mill. Local men slaughtered yaks and sheep in autumn-early winter for their families. Local women milked yaks from the sixth to eighth lunar months and produced dairy products.

When he turned five, he helped his brother herd his family's calves during the milking season. His Mother gave her two sons two balls of barley flour and an army canteen filled with boiled milk. They swam in a Yellow River tributary on hot days, keeping an eye on the calves, ensuring they didn't find their mothers, and leaving them with no milk. They were responsible for their horses in the ninth month. Although they paid the horses little attention during the day, they had to cross several high mountains and drive them home in the evening.

He wore sheepskin robes and leather boots until he enrolled in a local primary school in 1999. His mother buried dried yak skins to soften them, later unearthed them, cut the leather into pieces of appropriate size and shape, and sewed them together with yak leather string using an awl and needle to make boots for his family. His parents made sheepskin robes for his family from the skin of sheep that had died from illness or had been killed by wolves.

His parents sent Gu ru and his brother to school in 1999. A girl cousin was chosen by lottery to attend school, but her grandmother disagreed. Gu ru was sent in her place so the government would not fine her family. He and his brother chanted scriptures every night before going to bed because, his parents explained, chanting scriptures increased children's intelligence. Gu ru and his brother rode a white horse, his brother in front and he behind. His parents said riding a white horse would bring good fortune and luck.

He published *Remembering Tomorrow*<sup>1</sup> and *Good Boys Never Cry*<sup>2</sup>, two collections of short stories based on his paternal grandmother and local elders' life experiences and narratives. These stories inform young locals of their elders' realities of living in a pre-modern world.

He wrote a short script - *The Painting* – portraying a female Tibetan university student suffering from breaking up with her boyfriend. Subsequently, her painting teacher has sex with her after she is drunk in his apartment. Still later, a female classmate is kind to her, touches her, and she falls in love with her.

His films about local life include *Jeopardy*,<sup>3</sup> *A Painful Transformation*,<sup>4</sup> and *Inspiration*.<sup>5</sup> *Jeopardy Part 1* features local Tibetans sowing indigenous grass seeds to rehabilitate degraded grassland in their home place. *Part 2 A Tibetan Herdswoman* focuses

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<sup>1</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/29eykkvw>, accessed 18 Jun 2023

<sup>2</sup> <http://bitly.ws/wgMg>, accessed 18 Jun 2023

<sup>3</sup> <http://bitly.ws/qxEA>, accessed 18 Jun 2023

<sup>4</sup> <http://bitly.ws/xqnd>, accessed 18 Jun 2023

<sup>5</sup> <http://bitly.ws/xqnU>, accessed 18 Jun 2023

on a herdsman's daily life - milking yaks, collecting caterpillar fungus, herding yaks, and feeding a calf and weak yaks.

*Painful Transformation* concerns a Tibetan herder and her two sons. One was murdered, and the second committed suicide. The mother seeks a peaceful life at a remote Tibetan monastery.

*Inspiration* is a short film about a grandfather studying Tibetan to stimulate his grandson to study Tibetan, math, and Chinese.

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## SUMMARY

Lhadzom was raised by her paternal grandmother, Drajid, who passed away when Lhadzom was still a child. Unable to accept this, Lhadzom hopes Drajid will soon return. When Dzeepo gives crystal sugar and tells stories to her grandchildren, Lhadzom's playmates, Drogoon and Lhamo, Lhadzom misses Drajid even more.

Later, Lhadzom learns her maternal grandmother, Tsokho, is alive and is eager to visit her. Lhadzom's mother, Tsomo, promises to take Lhadzom with her the next time she visits Tsokho. Lhadzom is angry when Tsomo doesn't do this and resolves to visit Tsokho alone once she is old enough.

Lhadzom chooses her marriage partner, unlike her peers whose parents find suitable spouses for their children. After marrying, Rangshik, her husband, sells their yaks after Lhadzom gives birth to their son, Nahgong. The family moves to the local township town and opens a small shop.

Lhadzom learns to drive a motorcycle and car. Her traditional mother-in-law, Lumtso, disapproves because she believes it is improper for a herdsman to do this because others will gossip that Rangshik cannot control his wife and is thus not a real man. This will destroy the family's reputation.

In time, Lhadzom drives her family's car to visit Tsokho and takes her mother, Tsomo. During this trip, Lhadzom comes to

understand Tsomo did not take her to visit Tsokho when she was a child because she was afraid Lhadzom would describe family quarrels, including stories of her father, Dayluk, beating her mother, Tsomo. She knew this would make Tsokho unhappy, especially since she had arranged Tsomo's marriage.

Lhadzom doesn't take her son, Nahgong, with her to visit Tsokho because Nahgong would likely tell Tsokho that Rangshik, his father, beats his mother (Lhadzon), upsetting Tsokho and Tsomo. Lhadzom now better understands her mother.

The tension between Lhadzom and her traditional mother-in-law, Lumtso, builds with Lumtso finally moving to a local monastery and living with her sister.

Meanwhile, Rangshik wanders, gambles, has girlfriends, and rarely stays home.

When Lhadzom goes on a pilgrimage to Lhasa with her friends, she feels free from life's pressures and hopes the journey will never end.



## CHARACTERS

### FAMILY 1

Name	Description
Dayluk	Lhadzom and Drashe's father, Tsomo's husband
Tsomo	Lhadzom and Drashe's mother; Dayluk's wife; Hearbo's sister
Hearbo	Tsomo's brother
Tsokho	Tsomo's mother, Lhadzom, and Drashe's maternal grandmother
Drajid	Dayluk's mother, Lhadzom's and Drashe's paternal grandmother
Drashe	Dayluk and Tsomo's son, Lhadzom's brother
Lhadzom	Dayluk and Tsomo's daughter; Rangshik's wife and Nahgong's mother

### FAMILY 2

Jimtso	Dzeepo's son; Badko's brother; Gangzhung's stepfather; Dayjid's husband; Lhamo and Drogoon's father
Dayjid	Gangzhung, Lhamo and Drogoon's mother; Jimtso's wife
Drogoon	Jimtso and Dayjid's son
Dzeepo	Jimtso and Badkho's mother - grandmother to Drogoon and Lhamo
Dorgee	Badkho's son
Gangzhung	Jimtso's stepdaughter and Dayjid's daughter; Dawa's wife
Lhamo	Jimtso and Dayjid's daughter
Badkho	Dzeepo's son; Jimtso's brother; Dorgee's father

### FAMILY 3

Huarzeng	Dawa's father
Dawa	Huarzeng's son; Gangzhung's husband

### FAMILY 4

Rangshik	Lhadzom's husband; Lumtso's son; Nahgong's father
Lhadzom	Rangshik's wife, Nahgong's mother
Lumtso	Rangshik's mother, Sodjuck's sister
Tsoyak	Lumtso's sister
Nahgong	Lhadzom and Rangshik's son
Saygoon	Gangzhung's lover
Drala	Badkho's wife's mother

#### OTHER CHARACTERS

Trinpo	local community member, Dongne's father
Gangtso	Lhadzom's neighbor
Lama	will soon enter seclusion; visits local communities soliciting food (e.g., butter and dry cheese) for the time of religious seclusion
Monk	the lama's devotee
Leader	a local community leader
Kneejep	a local resident
Pakba	a local resident
Guhre	a local resident
Dongne	Trinpo's son

#### NOTES

baza	a mantra that improves wisdom
Jobo	a sacred depiction of Gautama Buddha known as Jowo Shakyamuni/Jowo Rinpoche kept in the the Jowo Temple in Lhasa
khadak	a strip of white silk offered to others to show respect
oM ma Ni pad me hA+oM zamba	The Six Sacred Syllables; reciting this mantra can release deceased creatures from suffering roasted barely flour mixed with butter and hot tea
Tibetan	Tibetan names and terms appear in phonetic renderings of the Golok Tibetan dialect and are given at the back of the book in Wylie and Tibetan script.

## Silent Women

By གུ་རུ་ཤལྷིན་ལས། Gu ru 'phrin las

### EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGES - DAY

Mountain ranges pass below. A valley is shrouded in fog.

### EXT. SUMMER PASTURE - MORNING

Two tents are pitched at the bottom of a high mountain on flat land in a valley. Smoke rises into the air from the tent's top hole. A small stream runs through the valley in front of the tents. Yaks, sheep, and horses graze placidly along the stream near the tents. Lambs bleat and run to their mothers as dogs bark mindlessly.

### EXT. LHADZOM'S HOME - MORNING

LHADZOM, seven years old, sits by her family's tent entrance. A bowl of rice noodles is next to her. She puts a finger into her mouth, bites the fingernail with her teeth, clinches the broken fingernail between the other hand's thumb and index finger, and jerks it away.

### LHADZOM'S VOICE (V.O.)

My paternal grandmother died a few months ago. I often sat next to my family's tent entrance with her. We had breakfast there on sunny mornings. I sat on her lap, listened to her stories, and sometimes nursed her withered nipples. My parents told me Grandmother would not come to see me again, even in the morning. I sit at the tent entrance, waiting for her. I don't believe my parents. Grandmother loves and misses me. She'll wake up and tell me more stories. We'll have breakfast together again.

DRASHE, six years old, emerges from their family tent. He wears a sheepskin robe and traditional leather boots and runs toward a small pool near their family's tent, where DROGOON and Lhamo are playing.

### LHADZOM

Brother, where are you going?

DRASHE

(without looking at Lhadzom)

I'm going to play.

Lhadzom stands up as TSOMO comes out of the tent.

TSOMO

Where's he going?

LHADZOM

He's going to play with Drogoon and Lhamo.

Tsomo watches Drogoon and Lhamo playing at the pool.

TSOMO

I hope they're not killing frogs and fish.

LHADZOM

I want to play with them.

TSOMO

Don't kill fish and frogs. I'll beat you to death if you kill frogs and fish.

LHADZOM

I don't kill frogs. I'm afraid of frogs and fish. I'll tell you if Drashe kills frogs and fish.

Lhadzom rushes to the children as her mother enters their family's tent.

INT. LHADZOM'S HOME

Wooden boxes, stuffed leather bags, and folded wool blankets are stacked in the tent's upper part. A small square altar made of rocks and earth is in the upper right corner of the tent. Religious images on the table are illuminated by butter lamps that flicker in front of the images. Clothes are stacked on the lower part of the tent. Dry yak dung is piled in a corner.

Tsomo sits by a milk separator placed on one side of the tent. She adds two scoops of milk to the separator's milk container and one scoop of cold milk from the milk bucket. She turns the separator's handle with her right hand, sending cream and skim milk in two separate streams to different metal basins on the ground, one on either side of the separator. Two big chunks of butter wrapped in yak stomach are atop two big rocks next to the milk separator.

EXT. POOL - DAY

Drogon, seven years old, jumps into the pool, wades through the water, and catches a frog. He grabs one of its hind legs and swings it right and left.

Drashe removes his sheepskin robe and boots near the pool and rolls up the legs of his long underwear.

He walks toward Lhadzom. She shouts and runs away. Lhamo, six years old, follows her.

DRASHE

Give it to me.

Drogon hands the frog to Drashe.

DROGOON

Don't grab it tightly. It's a gentle frog.

DRASHE

Okay. I'll not kill it.

Lhadzom and Lhamo come near the boys as Drashe holds the frog in his hand. Drashe opens his palm once the frog stops struggling. The frog then jumps from his palm. He blocks the frog with his foot as the frog hops toward the pool on the ground. The frog hops in another direction, and Drogon stops the frog with his foot. Finally, the frog jumps into the water.

DRASHE (CONT'D)

What a wild frog!

Drashe picks up dried yak dung and throws it at the frog swimming in the pool.

The frog rolls over and floats on the water's surface without moving - a white belly with motionless outstretched legs.

Lhadzom and Lhamo join them when they notice the frog is not in Drogoon's palm.

LHAMO

(screams)

You killed it!

DROGOON

I didn't kill it.

LHADZOM

Who killed it? oM ma Ni pad me hA+oM.

Drogoon walks into the water and picks up the dead frog. He chants the Six Sacred Syllables, blows at the dead frog, and then looks at Drashe.

DROGOON

I didn't kill it, but I know who did.

LHAMO

Suppose you didn't kill it. Who killed it? I'll tell our parents you did if you don't tell me.

DRASHE

(softly)

Don't tell them, or they won't let us play together.

Drogoon points at Drashe.

DROGOON  
He killed it.

Drashe punches Drogoon's head.

DRASHE  
Don't tell our parents I killed it.

EXT. LHADZOM'S HOME - DAY  
Tsomo stands at her family's tent entrance.

TSOMO  
(shouts to her children)  
Lunch is ready! Have lunch!

EXT. POOL - DAY  
Drashe rolls down the legs of his long underwear and pulls on his robe and boots.

DRASHE  
(shouts)  
Okay. We'll come soon.

LHADZOM  
(to Lhamo)  
Come to my home. We can have lunch together.

LHAMO  
No, thanks. I promised Mother I'd return home at lunchtime.

DROGOON  
We can play together tomorrow.

DRASHE  
Yeah.

Lhadzom runs over to her family's tent. Drashe slowly follows Lhadzom.

INT. LHADZOM'S HOME - DAY

Drashe sits quietly on one side of the tent, holds a bread bun in his hand, and places a plastic bowl of milk tea next to him.

Lhadzom sits by Tsomo and takes a bun from a full plate of buns in front of them. She bites it and drinks tea from Tsomo's bowl.

TSOMO

What have you done?

Drashe doesn't respond and lowers his head. Lhadzom smiles at Tsomo and cranes her head, looking at Drashe over the stove.

TSOMO (CONT'D)

Did you do a bad thing?

DRASHE

(quietly)

No.

TSOMO

Really? Are you sure?

DRASHE

Yeah.

TSOMO

(with rising anger)

Liar. Stop lying to me. You didn't kill a frog?

Drashe remains silent.

TSOMO (CONT'D)

What a sinful boy. I'll beat you to death if you kill another frog!



No response from Drashe.

INT. LHADZOM'S HOME - DAY

Drashe pours hot liquid butter into a butter lamp bowl from a soot-covered kettle. He uses a match and lights the butter lamp on the family's shrine altar, which is made of earth mixed with yak dung and gravel. He glances at Tsomo, who sits on one side of the tent.

DRASHE

Mother, I lit the butter lamp.

TSOMO

Great.

Drashe runs to Tsomo from one side of the tent to the other, where she sits. He sits on her lap and hugs her.

DRASHE

Mother, Please don't tell Father I killed a frog. He'll beat me if you tell him.

TSOMO

Why did you kill the frog? If you're sure that Father would beat you if you kill frogs.

DRASHE

The frog jumped into the water from my palm after biting me.

TSOMO

Show me where it bit you.

Drashe inspects his palms and then smiles.

TSOMO

Liar. I'll tell your father if you kill frogs again.

Drashe nods and stands next to Tsomo.

DRASHE

(spanking himself on his bottom)

You can beat me if I kill frogs again.

Drashe rushes out of the tent.

EXT. BICYCLE - DAY

Drogoon gets on his small bicycle - flat rear tire, one pedal missing, and no chain. Drashe grabs its rear pannier rack and pushes as Drogoon tightly grasps the bike's handlebars. The bike rolls down the hill. Drashe runs after Drogoon. Lhadzom stands still, watching. Drogoon gets off the bike as it stops at the foot of the hill, tosses it to the ground, and rests, sitting on the ground. Drashe grabs the bike handles and pushes the bike up to the hilltop.

Drashe gets on the bike when he gets near Lhadzom, who stands at the top of the mound.

LHADZOM

It's my turn. Let me ride it.

DRASHE

You're a girl. Girls don't ride bikes. Push the bike.

Lhadzom pushes the rear pannier rack and stops as the bike speeds down the hill. She watches Drashe riding down the hill. The bike's front wheel hits a small rock, and the bike almost topples over.

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

GANGZHUNG and SAYGOON, both in their early twenties, sit on a small river bank within a valley. The valley is near Gangzhung's tent, but they can't see her tent, nor can her family members see them. She bends her head into Saygoon's arms and looks at his face. Saygoon gently strokes her head. She stares at his round silver earring, inlaid with coral in his left ear. His long hair covers half of the earring.

His riding yak grazes nearby.

SAYGOON

Do your parents know about our relationship?

GANGZHUNG

They don't know, I guess.

SAYGOON

You should tell them about our relationship since we've been boyfriend and girlfriend for two years.

GANGZHUNG

They won't let me marry who I want.

SAYGOON

(puzzled)

Why?

GANGZHUNG

They think I'm stupid and won't marry a good man.

SAYGOON

Your mother hasn't asked if you have a lover.

GANGZHUNG

I lied each time she asked. I told her I couldn't find one.

SAYGOON

(seriously)

Next time don't lie. Tell the truth. Otherwise, your parents will find a lover for you, and we won't be able to marry.

GANGZHUNG

I'll only marry you. I prefer to become a nun rather than marry another man.

He puts his arm around her.

Music.

GANGZHUNG

Now, I should go home before my neighbors or relatives see us. It's embarrassing if someone discovers I'm with you.

SAYGOON

When will we meet again?

GANGZHUNG

You can decide.

SAYGOON

I'll come to see you here ten days from today, at this time.

GANGZHUNG

Okay.

He kisses her and mounts his riding yak.

EXT. LHADZOM'S FAMILY YAK ENCLOSURE - DAY

Drashe climbs on Drogoon's back with his arms around Drogoon's neck. Drogoon holds Drashe's legs, preventing Drashe from falling. Drogoon struggles to maintain his balance. He walks unsteadily. Drashe holds a short rope. A dry piece of wood is tied to one rope end.

DRASHE

Lhadzom, you are the dog. Lhamo is the dog's master. I'm the guest. Drogoon is my horse!

LHADZOM

Okay.

Lhamo nods her head.

Lhadzom scuttles on her hands and feet like a dog, moving near Drashe and Drogoon.

LHADZOM (CONT'D)  
(making dog sounds)  
Bow-Wow!

Lhamo tries to prevent Lhadzom from getting near Drashe and Drogoon.

Drashe swings the rope over his head as Lhadzom approaches him and Drogoon. He hits Lhadzom's back with all his strength. Drogoon loses balance, and they topple to the ground.

Lhadzom lies on the ground and bursts into tears. Lhamo goes near Lhadzom.

LHAMO  
Don't cry.

Drashe stands up, touches his hip, and walks over with a limp.

DRASHE  
Don't cry. We're just playing. I'm also hurt. My hip is painful.

LHADZOM  
I will tell Mother you beat me with that piece of wood.

DROGOON  
Don't cry. I'll give you sugar when Grandmother gives me sugar the next time.

DRASHE  
Stop crying. Drogoon is going to give you sugar.

LHADZOM  
You hurt me! I can't stand the pain!

Lhadzom squats on the ground.

Music.

Drashe pushes Drogoon and runs away. Drogoon almost falls and then chases Drashe. Lhamo stands, watches Drogoon and Drashe, and then runs after them. Lhadzom stands up and rushes to her family's tent.

EXT. DAYLUK'S FAMILY YAK ENCLOSURE - DAY

DAYLUK, Tsomo, Drashe, and Lhadzom drive their family's yaks into the yak enclosure. Lhadzom follows Dayluk.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - NIGHT

Drashe and Tsomo sit on one side of the tent, while Dayluk and Lhadzom sit on the other.

DAYLUK

What have you done today?

DRASHE

Nothing.

Dayluk tilts his head.

DAYLUK

I can't hear you. Come here.

Drashe reluctantly walks to Dayluk.

DAYLUK (CONT'D)

Give me your hand.

Drashe stretches out his hand. Dayluk sniffs it.

DAYLUK (CONT'D)

Give me the other one.

Drashe offers his other hand to Dayluk. Dayluk sniffs it.

DAYLUK (CONT'D)

(a little angry)

What did you kill today?

DRASHE

I didn't kill anything.

Dayluk spans Drashe.

DAYLUK

Who killed a frog?

Drashe sobs and doesn't reply. Dayluk spans him again.

DAYLUK (CONT'D)

Will you kill frogs and beat your sister again?

DRASHE

No, Father. I won't kill frogs and bully my sister again.

DAYLUK

Stop crying.

Drashe stops crying.

DAYLUK (CONT'D)

Stop crying and have supper.

Drashe walks over to Tsomo and sits by her. Tsomo gives him a bun from a nearby blue plastic basin.

TSOMO

Don't cry. Eat quickly. We must go to bed.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - NIGHT

Drashe sleeps with Tsomo on one side of the tent, and Lhadzom sleeps with Dayluk on the other.

DRASHE

(chants a mantra)

oM a ra pa tsa na d+hl, oM a ra pa tsa na d+hl....

DAYLUK

You forgot to chant baza (a mantra that improves wisdom).

LHADZOM

I'm sleepy. I'll chant tomorrow.

DAYLUK

You should chant every night. If you chant every night, you'll become smarter. If you go to school, you'll learn easily.

LHADZOM

I don't want to go to school. I'll miss my family.

DAYLUK

You are my good daughter. You should go to school. You won't need to herd yaks if you go to school.

LHADZOM

I want to herd yaks rather than attend school.

DAYLUK

What a bad girl. Bad girls don't go to school.

Lhadzom pulls Dayluk's ear.

LHADZOM

I'm not a bad girl. I'm your good daughter.



DAYLUK

Right. You are my good daughter. Don't pull my ear. Good girls go to bed on time. Let's sleep.

Dayluk closes his eyes.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom and Lhamo put small white and small black stones in lines near Lhadzom's family tent.

LHADZOM

Did you see my family's white female yak? I lost it yesterday.

Lhamo picks up a white stone and gives it to Lhadzom.

LHAMO

Yeah. It's with my family's yaks.

LHADZOM

I herded my family's yaks yesterday and then fell asleep at noon. I worried all night wolves would eat her.

LHAMO

Your yak is safe. You're a lucky herder but not a good one.

Lhadzom picks up a big black stone and hands it to Lhamo.

LHADZOM

You're a bad herder, too. Your family's old black yak is in my family's herd.

Lhamo takes the stone from Lhadzom and places it on one end of the lined-up stone in front of her.

LHAMO

What a bad herder I am! I didn't even notice it was missing.

LHADZOM

We should try our best to be good herders.

LHAMO

Right.

Drashe and Drogoon join them. Drashe takes a piece of crystal sugar from his pants pocket and puts it in his mouth.

LHADZOM

Who gave you that sugar?

DRASHE

Drogoon.

LHADZOM

Do you have any more?

DRASHE

No. Ask Drogoon.

LHADZOM

Give me a piece of sugar.

Drogoon licks a piece of crystal sugar in his hand and then points it at Lhadzom.

DROGOON

I only have this piece. I don't have any more.

LHADZOM

May I lick it? Where did you get sugar?

DROGOON

No. You can't lick it. It's mine. My grandmother gave it to me. You can ask your grandmother to give you sugar.

Lhadzom lowers her head and says nothing.

LHAMO

Her grandmother is dead.

Drogoon sticks out his tongue and hands his sugar to Lhadzom.

Lhadzom takes the sugar from Drogoon. She then bites a small piece of the sugar and hands the rest to Drogoon.

DROGOON

I have two grandmothers. Do you have another grandmother?

LHADZOM

I don't know.

DROGOON

(Chuckles)

Stupid! You don't even know if you have another grandmother?

Drogoon points at Lhadzom and laughs.

DROGOON (CONT'D)

Someone doesn't have a grandmother. I have two grandmothers.

Lhadzom cries and puts her head in her arms.

Music.

Drogoon runs away. Drashe follows.

LHAMO

Don't cry. Let's go to my home. Probably my grandmother will give you sugar.

Lhadzom stops crying, but tears continue trickling down her cheeks.

A month later

EXT. LHADZOM'S HOME - DAY

A LAMA wears a yellow monk cassock and rides a white horse. His horse's neck has red, yellow, and white pieces of cloth tied to its mane. A MONK clad in a traditional monk robe rides a black horse and leads a red horse with saddlebags.

Tsomo rushes out of her family's tent as her family's watchdog barks. She walks toward the monks.

TSOMO

(bends toward the monks)

Please come to my home and have some tea.

LAMA

No, thanks. We already had lunch with a family from your tribe.

TSOMO

Okay.

Lama looks at the monk.

LAMA (CONT'D)

He's my student.

The monk bends his head toward the lama.

LAMA

We're from the Tangger Community. We are preparing to go into seclusion in a cave in our community. We need butter and cheese, so we have come here to beg for some. It's okay if you don't give us any.

TSOMO

We have butter and cheese. What a great opportunity to support you!

Tsomo runs to her family's tent.

The lama and the monk dismount and sit on the ground crossed-legged. The lama takes a red cloth bag from his shoulder and places it beside him.

Tsomo brings a big piece of butter on a flat pot lid and a full bowl of dried cheese.

Drashe and Lhadzom follow Tsomo. Tsomo gives the butter and cheese to the monk and kneels in front of the lama. Drashe and Lhadzom stand next to Tsomo. Tsomo nudges Drashe's leg.

TSOMO (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Kneel.

The lama looks at Lhadzom.

LAMA

Are you a student? How are you doing at school?

LHADZOM

No.

LAMA

Are you going to school?

LHADZOM

I'm not going to school.

LAMA

Attend school. You'll have a happy life if you go to school.

LHADZOM

No. I'm not going to school. My grandmother told me school is where people starve.

Lhadzom stops talking as Tsomo hits Lhadzom's thigh.

The lama chuckles and touches Drashe's head. Drashe keeps his head down and dares not look at the lama.

LAMA

Are you going to school?

DRASHE

I don't know.

The lama looks at Tsomo.

LAMA

Are you going to send him to school?

TSOMO

I don't know. His father will decide.

The lama takes several protection knots from his bag, recites mantras, and blows at the knots. He gives one to DRASHE.

LAMA

It will protect you from evil, and you will learn things fast at school, if you chant mantras.

Drashe takes it from the lama without raising his head.

The lama gives knots to Tsomo and Lhadzom. Tsomo puts her palms together and bows to the lama as she takes the knot.

TSOMO

Please give me a protection knot for my husband. He's herding our family's yaks.

LAMA

Sure.

DAYJID holds a basin full of dried cheese with a big piece of butter on top. She walks to the lama. JIMTSO, Drogoon, DZEEPO, and LHAMO follow her.

Dayjid gives the basin to the monk. The monk takes it and places it next to the food Tsomo gave. The monk takes a saddlebag from the packhorse. The monk puts the butter in a plastic bag in one of the saddlebags and puts the cheese into a plastic bag in the other saddlebag.

The monk hands the basin and pot lid to Dayjid and Tsomo.

Dayjid, Jimtso, Drogoon, Dzeepo, and Lhamo kneel before the lama. The lama gives a protection knot to Dzeepo.

LAMA  
How old are you?

DZEEPO  
Seventy.

The lama chants and blows over Dzeepo's head. He gives a protection knot to Dzeepo.

LAMA  
(to Dzeepo)  
This knot will extend your lifespan.

DZEEPO  
Have a long life.

The lama blows over them as the others bend their heads toward him. He gives protection knots to all who have not received one.

Dayjid secretly hits Jimtso.

JIMTSO

Lama, could you please divine for my daughter? We'll arrange for our daughter to marry a man from Martang Community. Will it be a good marriage?

The lama takes a string of prayer beads from around his neck. While chanting, he blows on the beads and closes his eyes. He touches the prayer beads to his forehead in three sections. He opens his eyes and counts the number of beads in two sections.

LAMA

Don't worry! The marriage will be good. It will be good for her to chant Zhungma (a mantra).

JIMTSO

Thank you.

The lama stands.

LAMA

Now, we are leaving. Thank you for the food.

JIMTSO

Our pleasure.

Jimtso holds the reins of the lama's horse to keep it calm. He lifts the lama's right leg to help him mount the horse.

LAMA

Goodbye.

JIMTSO

Have a long life.

DZEEPO

Have a long life.



Jimtso and Dzeepo walk to their tents.

TSOMO

Come to my home.

JIMTSO

No, thanks.

DZEEPO

No. I have to make butter lamps.

Dayjid and Tsomo sit together on the ground.

TSOMO

It seems that Gangzhung will have a good life with Dawa.

DAYJID

HUARZENG's a good man, so his son must be a good man.

TSOMO

Right. She'll have a good life if Dawa's a good man and kind to her.

DAYJID

Who knows? Jimtso is kind to Gangzhung and treats her as his daughter. He arranged the marriage. I agreed with him.

TSOMO

Jimtso's a good man.

DAYJID

Huarzeng is Jimtso's friend. He thought it was good for them to marry.

TSOMO

It's important to marry a good man.

DAYJID

Right. If a woman marries a bad man, she becomes his family's slave.

Dayjid and Tsomo take their basins and walk to their tents.

INT. LHADZOM'S HOME - NIGHT

Tsomo sits on one side of the tent. Dayluk and Drashe sit on the other side. Dayluk finishes eating noodles and hands his bowl to Tsomo over the stove.

Tsomo ladles noodles into his bowl and returns the bowl to him. Dayluk takes it.

DAYLUK

Where is Lhadzom? Why didn't she return home?

TSOMO

Lhamo asked me for permission to let Lhadzom spend the night with her family. I gave permission.

DAYLUK

Next time, don't let her spend the night at Jimtso's home. Otherwise, she will want to spend every night there.

TSOMO

Okay.

INT. JIMTSO'S HOME - NIGHT

A long piece of yak hair cloth covers a stack of leather-covered boxes and a pile of stuffed leather bags. A flat wooden board rests atop the stack of boxes and leather bags. A tangka tied to a tent rope hangs over religious images and butter lamps on the board.

A milk separator, pots, and metal basins are in the upper corner of one side of the tent. A big chunk of butter wrapped in a yak stomach container rests on a wide flat rock next to a milk separator. Robes and dry yak dung are in each lower tent corner.

Dzeepo sits on a sheepskin spread on top of dry willow stems stacked in a square shape on one side.

Drogoon sits on Dzeepo's lap and leans his head against Dzeepo's chest. Lhamo and Lhadzom sit by Dzeepo.

DZEEPO

A long time ago, Mother Rabbit had several baby rabbits. One day, Mother Rabbit told the baby rabbits not to trust Mother Bear if she came to visit. When Mother Rabbit went to collect wild baby yams, Mother Bear knew Mother Rabbit was not home, so she went to the rabbit home.

LHADZOM

What's a bear?

DZEEPO

A big, dangerous animal.

LHADZOM

Do bears eat people?

DZEEPO

Yes, sometimes they eat small children.

Lhamo grabs Dzeepo's arm and puts her head against Dzeepo.

LHAMO

Did Mother Bear eat the baby rabbits?

DZEEPO

Let me tell it.

Lhadzom looks at Dzeepo, Drogoon, and Lhamo and admires them as they move closer to their grandmother.

LHADZOM'S VOICE (V.O.)

My grandmother told me stories almost every night. I sat on her lap and listened to her stories. She told me stories when I cried after my brother bullied me or my parents slapped me. My grandmother said, 'Don't cry, my good girl.' When she had no sugar to give me, she would tell me stories to stop my crying. I hoped she would come back to life and tell me more stories, but she didn't. I miss her.

INT. LHADZOM'S HOME - DAY

Tsomo kneels just inside their family's tent and has a bowl of milk tea. Lhadzom sits cross-legged next to Tsomo.

TSOMO

Don't sit like a man.

LHADZOM

It's okay. I'm not an old woman.

TSOMO

You should learn to sit like a woman despite being a child.

Lhadzom stands and kneels on the ground.

TSOMO (CONT'D)

Good girl!

Lhadzom stands and then sits cross-legged.

LHADZOM

It is uncomfortable to sit the way women sit. It hurts my knees.

TSOMO

You have to get used to sitting like that. Others will laugh at you if you sit like a man when you are older.

LHADZOM

Oh.

LHADZOM (CONT'D)

Mother, do I have another grandmother?

TSOMO

Stupid girl. You have another grandmother. My mother is still alive.

LHADZOM

Why doesn't she live with us?

TSOMO

She lives with her family.

LHADZOM

Where is her family?

TSOMO

Her family is far from here.

LHADZOM

Do you miss your mother?

TSOMO (CONT'D)

Yes.

LHADZOM

Why doesn't she come to visit you?

TSOMO

She's old and can't come to see me. I will visit her.

LHADZOM

Take me with you when you visit your mother.

TSOMO

Okay.

LHADZOM

Does your mother have a lot of sugar crystals? Does she tell stories to children?

TSOMO

Yes, she does. She has a big bag of sugar.

Lhadzom smiles and jumps on Tsomo's lap.

LHADZOM

I want to visit my grandmother and listen to her stories. Please take me with you next time!

TSOMO

Okay.

LHADZOM

(ponders)

Will she give me candy?

TSOMO

(lightly striking Lhadzom's head)

Of course, she will give you a lot of candy. You are her granddaughter.

LHADZOM

Take me with you next time! I'll leave home if you don't take me with you next time!

TSOMO

(chuckling)

Okay.

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

Saygoon wears a new sheepskin robe and modern leather boots. He mounts a riding yak and bends over the yak's neck. Gangzhung stands near the yak.

SAYGOON

Are you going to marry Dawa?

GANGZHUNG

You know I want to marry you.

SAYGOON

Why do you agree with your parents to marry Dawa?

GANGZHUNG

I can't say no to my parents. They consulted a lama who predicted I'd have a good life if I married Dawa.

SAYGOON

We can secretly move to another tribe and get married.

Gangzhung ponders for a second.

GANGZHUNG

Parents are powerful. Maybe we're not destined to marry each other.

Gangzhung's entire face tenses with sadness, and tears fill her eyes.

Music.

Saygoon dismounts from the yak and wipes Gangzhung's tears with his hand.

SAYGOON (CONT'D)

Don't cry. I love you even though we can't marry.

Saygoon sighs.

EXT. JIMTSON'S TENT YARD - SUNSET

Gangzhung sits near her family's tent entrance and ponders. Tears fill her eyes.

Music.

EXT. LHADZOM'S FAMILY'S YAK ENCLOSURE - DAY

Drashe is chasing Drogoon. Drogoon holds a catapult in his hand.

Lhadzom chases Drashe and grabs his shoulder.

LHADZOM

Mother promised to take me with her to visit her mother next time.

DRASHE

Mother promised me too.

Drashe continues chasing Drogoon. Lhadzom watches Drashe chase Drogoon in the yak enclosure.

EXT. GANGZHUNG'S HOME - DAY

Gangzhung is walking near her family's tent.

Lhadzom sees Gangzhung and rushes over.

LHADZOM

(yells)

Cousin!

INT. GANGZHUNG'S HOME - DAY

Dzeepo sits on her bed, and Gangzhung sits near Dzeepo with her head down. Dayjid sits near the stove.

Lhadzom stands at the door.

DAYJID

Come inside.

Lhadzom sits next to Gangzhung.



DZEEPO

Don't be sad.

DAYJID

What a bad woman! Be strong. The lama said you would have a happy marriage.

DZEEPO

Right, what the lama says is correct. Marry Dawa, and you'll have a good life, as the lama predicted. Jimtso is kind to you and made the best decision for you. Huarzeng's a good man, so his son must be a good man. You'll have a good life if your husband is a good man.

DAYJID

Dawa's family is rich. You'll have a nice life if you marry into a rich family. You'll have a bad life if you marry into a poor family.

DZEEPO

Dawa's family has many yaks, and it might be hard work for you to herd many yaks.

DAYJID

It's okay for her since she's young. What matters is to marry a good man. Listen to your stepfather.

DZEEPO

Right. Listen to him. He cares about you, just like you were his own daughter.

Gangzhung nods and says nothing.

DAYJID

Jimtso said Dawa would come to our home in a few days.

No response from Gangzhung.

DAYJID (CONT'D)

Lhadzom, your cousin, is a good woman. Right?

LHADZOM

Right. She's a good woman, and I like her.

DZEEPO

Do you want to be a good girl like your cousin, Gangzhung?

LHADZOM

Yes.

DAYJID

Good.

DZEEPO

A good girl often listens to her parents. Listen to your parents. Then you will become a good girl like your sister.

LHADZOM

(smiling)

Right.

A few days later

EXT. JIMTSO'S HOME - DAY

Twenty-year-old Dawa wears a new sheepskin robe with a sword in a silver sheath decorated with red corals hanging over his right hip from his sash. He wears a silver ring inset with three coral rings on his left ring finger.

He rides a black horse and heads to Jimtso's home.

Jimtso's watchdog barks as Dawa nears.

Jimtso and Dayjid emerge from their family's tent. Dayjid runs over, picks up a stone, and throws it at the dog. The dog stops barking.

Jimtso holds Dawa's horse's reins and Dawa dismounts.

JIMTSO

How are you?

DAWA

Good.

Jimtso ties the rein to a wood pole.

JIMTSO

Go inside.

DAYJID

How are you?

DAWA

Good.

They enter the tent.

EXT. JIMTSO'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom peeks through a tent hole.

INT. JIMTSO'S HOME - DAY

Dawa and Jimtso sit next to each other on one side of the tent.

Dayjid pours milk tea into a bowl and hands it to Jimtso, who gives it to Dawa.

JIMTSO

Drink some tea.

Dawa takes it from JIMTSO.

DAWA

Okay.

JIMTSO

Dayjid, fix some food.

DAWA

Don't make food for me.

JIMTSO

It's okay.

EXT. JIMTSO'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom runs to her home when Dawa discovers she is peeking through the tent.

EXT. JIMTSO'S HOME - SUNSET

Gangzhung stands near her family's tent door.

Dayjid comes out from the tent.

DAYJID

What a strange woman. Don't be shy. He's your husband.

Gangzhung reluctantly follows Dayjid into the tent.

EXT. DAYLUK'S TENT YARD - DAY

Lhadzom stands near her family's tent and watches Gangzhung and Dawa riding horses. They are heading to Dawa's home.

Month later (Winter)

EXT. WINTER PASTURE - DAY

Black yak-hair tents are pitched on the banks of the Yellow River. Yaks, horses, and sheep graze around the tents. A creek flows down the valley near the tents.

EXT. WATER PASTURE - DAY

It is snowing, wrapping the landscape in a white coat.

Dogs can only bark at livestock.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

In his forties, the village LEADER wears a sheepskin robe and a fox-skin hat, rides a black horse, and heads to Dayluk's family tent.

Dayluk's family's watchdog barks furiously at the leader when he nears Dayluk's tent.

Dayluk emerges from his family tent, picks up a chunk of dry yak dung, and throws it at his dog. He walks toward the leader.

DAYLUK

How are you, Leader?

LEADER

Good.

The leader stops his horse as Dayluk nears him.

LEADER

What a snowy day. I thought it wouldn't snow this morning.

DAYLUK

Yeah, it snowed heavily.

LEADER

It's cold. Your family is rich. You should build a house. Rich families from our tribe live in houses.

DAYLUK

We aren't rich. Dismount and have some hot tea with my family.

LEADER

No, thanks. I'm busy.

DAYLUK

What are you busy doing?

LEADER

I'm here to inform you of a meeting the day after tomorrow at the end of Bear Valley. I have many households to inform today.

DAYLUK

Okay. What's the meeting about?

LEADER

The government requires our tribe to send some children to school this autumn. We have to meet to discuss which children to send to school.

DAYLUK

I see.

LEADER

You must join the meeting.

DAYLUK

Okay.

LEADER

I'm going to inform other families.

INT. JIMTSO'S HOME - DAY

Dayluk wears a sheepskin robe and a fox-skin hat. He enters Jimtso's family tent.

Drogon and Lhamo are playing near their family's tent. They run into their family's tent when they see Dayluk enter.

Dzeepo and Dayjid sit on one side of the tent.

DAYLUK (CONT'D)

Where's Jimtso? Is he not going to join the meeting?

DAYJID

He went to Huarzeng's home yesterday. He hasn't returned.

DAYLUK

Who'll join the meeting for your family? Dayjid, will you join the meeting?

DAYJID

No. It's shameful for women to join such meetings. Women don't have the right to decide for their families at meetings.

DAYLUK

It's an important meeting. One of your family members should join. Gangzhung, will you join?

GANGZHUNG

No. I have to herd my family's sheep and yaks.

Drogoon and Lhamo stand by Dayluk.

DAYJID

You can take Drogoon with you.

DROGOON

No. I don't want to join the meeting. Old men will beat me.

Dayluk touches Drogoon's head.

DAYLUK

I won't let elders beat you. Nobody can bully you if I'm with you.

DROGOON

(to Dayjid)

Put my robe on me.

Dayjid takes a small sheepskin robe from the lower part of the tent where the family's clothing is piled. She puts the robe on Drogoon.

DAYJID

You're a real man. You can represent your father and join the meeting, my good son.

Dayjid kisses Drogoon's forehead.

EXT. JIMTSO'S HOME - DAY

Dayluk mounts his horse, and Dayjid puts Drogoon behind Dayluk. They ride the horse toward Bear Valley.

EXT. YELLOW RIVER BANKS - DAY

Men wear sheepskin robes. Some wear fox-skin hats. A few have their heads wrapped with scarves. They sit around the leader.

Their horses and riding yaks graze nearby.

The leader takes a pen and a greasy, torn notebook. He opens his notebook and holds the pen.

Drogoon sits next to Dayluk.

LEADER

Okay, everybody, listen. A few days ago, I participated in a government meeting. Next semester, the government leader requires each tribe to send at least four children to the local primary school. Who wants to send their children to school?

Everybody talks to each other.

TRINPO raises his hand.

TRINPO

I'm going to send my son to school.



LEADER

Good. What's your son's name?

TRINPO

Dongne.

The Leader writes "Dongne" in his notebook.

LEADER

Who else wants to send their children to school?

No one raises their hand.

LEADER

It seems no one wants to send their children to school. We'll have a lottery.

MAN 1

Good.

MAN 2

The leader's idea is the best.

MAN 3

It's fair.

LEADER

Whose family has an eight-year-old child?

The leader tears a paper from his notebook. He tears it into small pieces.

GUHRE

My daughter is eight years old.

KNEEJEP

My son is eight years old.

DAYLUK

My family's daughter is eight.

PAKBA

My son is eight.

BADKHO

My son is about eight, I guess.

TRINPO

My son is eight years old.

LEADER

Okay, I'll write each of your names on a piece of paper, except for Trinpo's.

The leader writes their names on the small pieces of paper.

The leader and those sitting near him fold the small pieces of paper into the same shape. The leader takes off his hat and puts the name papers inside. He shakes the papers in his hat.

LEADER

We're going to pick three papers from the hat. Each of those families will send a child to school. Do you all agree?  
They all agree.

The person next to the leader picks a piece of paper from the hat and gives it to the leader.

The leader unfolds it.

LEADER

Badkho, you've been chosen. You need to send your son to school.

The leader puts his hat on the ground and takes his note and pen.

LEADER

What's your son's name?

BADKHO

Dorgee.

The leader puts the notebook and pen on the ground and picks up his hat.

Another man next to him selects another paper.

LEADER

Dayluk. Your name. What's your daughter's name?

DAYLUK

My daughter's name is Lhadzom.

Trinpo sits next to Dayluk.

TRINPO

Good. It's good for your daughter to go to school.

DAYLUK

Right. She'll not learn much if she's as stupid as me.

Trinpo looks at Drogoon.

TRINPO

Whose son is this?

DAYLUK

He's Jimtso's son. Jimtso is not at home, so we came to join the meeting.

TRINPO

I didn't know that. How old are you?

DROGOON

Seven.

TRINPO

What a good son! Brave enough to join the meeting.

DAYLUK

Right. My family will build a house on the winter pasture this coming summer. Can you help me find construction workers?

TRINPO

Sure. I can ask the workers who built my house.

DAYLUK

How much did you pay them?

TRINPO

Around 20,000 RMB. For a person as rich as you, it's a small sum.

DAYLUK

I'm not rich. My family only has a few yaks, but others think my family's rich. You are a businessman, and you're rich. You sell ornaments and make a lot of money. Local people like ornaments.

TRINPO

Not really.

DAYLUK

I also need your help choosing the kind of house to build since it will be my family's first house.

TRINPO

Don't worry. I'll tell the workers what kind of house to build for your family.

DAYLUK

Thanks. You're a capable man. You are good at everything.

Everyone mounts their horses and yaks and heads in different directions.

DAYLUK

Don't forget to find workers for me.

TRINPO

Don't worry. I'll find workers for you.

DAYLUK

Thanks.

INT. JIMTSO'S HOME - DAY

Badkho sits cross-legged next to Jimtso and sips milk tea from his bowl.

BADKHO

My wife's mother, DRALA, doesn't want to send my son to school. You know he was chosen by lottery last year?

DZEEPO

How is Drala?

BADKHO

Mother, Drala's good.

DZEEPO

Great. Have some tea.

BADKHO

Mother, okay.

JIMTSO

The government will fine your family if you don't send him to school.

BADKHO

But she doesn't agree. You know, old people are stubborn. It's impossible to persuade them to change their minds.

JIMTSO

Why doesn't she want to send him to school?

BADKHO

She thinks other children will bully her grandson. She's concerned he'll lack food and be hungry.

JIMTSO

The school provides three meals each day. There's enough food. The teachers take good care of the children. There's no chance for them to bully each other. She thinks too much.

BADKHO

I told her, but she won't listen. She swore to the Three Jewels that her grandchild would not attend school.

JIMTSO

What shall we do?

BADKHO

Is it okay to send Drogoon to school to represent Dorgee?

DAYLUK

Lhadzom doesn't want to go to school either. I asked the leader about sending Drashe to school to represent Lhadzom. He said it was okay.

JIMTSO

That's okay.

BADKHO

Good. It's all we can do.

JIMTSO

It's good that Drashe and Drogoon will go to school together. They'll be less homesick if they are together.

BADKHO

Right.

EXT. JIMTSO'S HOME - DAY

Badkho rides his horse toward his home.

Three months later (Spring)

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom squats at her family's tent entrance.

Drashe runs from his family's yak enclosure.

Lhadzom grabs Drashe's arm as he enters his family's tent.

DRASHE

Let me enter!

Drashe hears her mother crying. He squats next to Lhadzom.

DRASHE (CONT'D)

(loudly)

What's happening?

LHADZOM

(quietly)

Father's angry. He's scolding Mother.

Drashe is quiet.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Tsomo and Dayjid sit near Dayluk's family yak enclosure.

DAYJID

What happened? Did he beat you?

TSOMO

No, we just quarreled. How do you know he beat me? Did Lhadzom tell you?

Dayjid looks at Tsomo's red, swollen cheek.

DAYJID

Yeah.

TSOMO

What a bigmouth girl.

DAYJID

Quarreling is normal. Every couple quarrels, but a husband beating his wife is no good.

TSOMO

It's okay if a husband beats his wife a few times. Often quarreling is depressing and makes me and my family sad. My biggest concern is that my mother would know my husband mistreats me, making her unhappy. Unhappiness brings illness to old people.

DAYJID

Understandable. Old people worry about their children's life.

TSOMO

Don't talk about such sad things. Let's go to my home and have some tea.

DAYJID

No, thanks. I have to go home and fix something for my family's watchdog.



INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Tsomo and Lhadzom sit in their family's tent.

TSOMO

Stupid girl. How often have I told you not to tell others about our family's private affairs?

LHADZOM

I didn't say anything to others.

TSOMO

Don't lie. What you told Dayjid. Don't tell others if your father and I quarrel or he beats me. Rumors are powerful. They can destroy our family's reputation. Do you understand?

Tears fill Lhadzom's eyes.

TSOMO

I'll beat you to death if you tell others again about our private things.

Lhadzom keeps her head down and nods.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

HEARBO sits with Dayluk on one side of the tent. He throws his long ponytail over his back and smiles, showing a gold tooth.

HEARBO

Where's Lhadzom?

DAYLUK

She's herding yaks. She doesn't want to go to school, so we ask her to herd our yaks.

TSOMO

She hates the very idea of school. She told us she preferred to herd yaks.

DAYLUK

She was chosen to go to school by lottery, but she refused. Drashe is going to school in place of Lhadzom.

HEARBO

It's not good. She should go to school. Being a herds woman is not a good idea.

TSOMO

Poor girl! I urged her to attend school. I explained school life is far superior to herding life, but she didn't listen. She says she would miss home.

DAYLUK

I can't convince her. She's not smart, like me. She wouldn't do well at school. Maybe it's best to let her herd yaks.

TSOMO

Women are unlucky. Maybe it is her fate not to attend school.

HEARBO

(sighs)

It's really bad.

TSOMO

We should leave today.

DAYLUK

You can leave tomorrow. Let Hearbo rest for a day.

TSOMO

It's better to leave today because Lhadzom wants to go with us. I promised to take her with me when I visited my mother.

HEARBO

Great. We can bring both Lhadzom and Drashe with us. I'm sure Mother will be happy to see them.

TSOMO

No. She's talkative and tells others whatever she sees. She doesn't know what things should not be told to others. I'm afraid she'll tell my mother bad things and make her unhappy.

HEARBO

What bad things will make mother unhappy?

TSOMO

(without answering his question)

She needs to herd our yaks.

Tsomo puts some fried bread into a plastic bag and wraps two bowls in a cloth.

HEARBO

No need to bring bowls and food. I packed food and plastic bowls on the horse.

TSOMO

We can bring some fried bread.

HEARBO

That's good.

Tsomo puts on a new sheepskin robe, a silver waist belt, and a red scarf.

Drashe brings a new sheepskin robe and stands next to Dayluk, who helps him put on the robe.

DAYLUK

My family's horses are on the mountain. Tsomo and Drashe have no horse to ride.

HEARBO

She and Drashe can ride my other horse.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Dayluk puts the bread into a saddlebag.

Hearbo folds one blanket, puts it over his riding horse's saddle, and puts a saddlebag over it. Tsomo puts another blanket over the other horse's saddle.

Tsomo and Drashe mount the black horse. Hearbo gets on the other horse.

HEARBO

We'll be back in six days.

DAYLUK

Be careful on the way.

HEARBO

Okay.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom drives her family's yaks back home.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom enters her family's tent.

LHADZOM

Father, where are Mother and Drashe?

DAYLUK

Your uncle Hearbo visited this morning. He's accompanying them to your grandmother's home.

LHADZOM

(cries out)

Mother lied! She promised to take me with her the next time she visited her mother! She doesn't love me. She loves Drashe. She didn't take me with her. I don't love Mother.

DAYLUK

Of course, she loves you. You're her only daughter. She'll take you next time.

LHADZOM

(cries)

You always say, "Next time."

DAYLUK

Don't cry. I'll ask her to take you with her next time. You must be hungry. Eat some fried bread. The tea is warm.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Lhadzom sits on top of the mountain near her home. She sees two horse riders head toward her family's tent.  
She smiles and jumps up.

LHADZOM

Mother and Drashe are back.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom enters the tent and sees Tsomo sitting on one side of the tent. She sits near Tsomo.

LHADZOM

(angry)

Liar! You promised I could visit Grandmother!

TSOMO

You were herding yaks, so I brought Drashe with me. I'll take you next time.

LHADZOM

No! I'll visit Grandmother when I grow up.

Tsomo hands a small package of crystal sugar to Lhadzom.

TSOMO

Grandmother loves you and sent you this package of crystal sugar.

Lhadzom nudges Tsomo's hand away.

LHADZOM

I don't need it.

Tsomo hands it to Lhadzom again.

LHADZOM (CONT'D)

No.

TSOMO

Okay, I'll give it to Drashe if you don't need it.

Lhadzom snatches it from Tsomo.

LHADZOM

Where are Father and Drashe?

TSOMO

They're visiting a neighbor.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Dayluk makes a single-strap shoulder bag.

Months later (Summer)

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Drashe washes his face in a basin.

Dayluk puts a small notebook into a single-strap, cloth shoulder bag.

Tsomo helps Drashe put on his new sheepskin robe and puts the new school bag over his shoulder.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Dayluk mounts a white horse. Tsomo grabs Drashe's wrist with her hands and puts him behind Dayluk.

Jimtso and Drogoon ride a horse and join Dayluk and Drashe.

JIMTSO

Let's go.

DAYLUK

Yeah.

TSOMO

Boys, try your best at school. Don't fight other children. You two should take care of each other. Bye.

DRASHE

Bye, Mother.

DROGOON

Bye, Aunt (being polite).

DRASHE and Drogoon nod. They head toward the township town.

EXT. DAYLUK'S YAK ENCLOSURE - DAY

Lhadzom gets on a riding yak and holds a slingshot.

She watches the horse riders while driving her family's yaks near her tent to a mountain.

Ten years later (Summer)

EXT. STONE YARD - DAY

People drive Jimtso's family's sheep into a small yard with stone walls.

Lhadzom, Tsomo, and Dayjid are lined up and block the opening.

Jimtso and Dayluk catch sheep from the flock by their hind legs. They tie each sheep's front legs together and the front legs to the sheep's neck or horns. They put the tied sheep in a line and shear them.

DAYLUK

These shears are dull. Is there another pair?

JIMTSO picks up a pair of shears and hands them to Dayluk.

DAYLUK

Your sheep are fat. You're a good shepherd.

JIMTSO

This year the grass grew well, so the sheep are good.

DAYLUK

You're like your father and herd sheep well.

JIMTSO

I don't compare. He was the best shepherd in his tribe. I'm a bad shepherd. Did you know wolves killed four of my family's sheep a few days ago?

DAYLUK

How's that possible?

JIMTSO

Each time I fell asleep in the mountains.

DAYLUK

Try your best to be a good shepherd like your father. Otherwise, you'll be ashamed.

JIMTSO

(laughing)

I can't be as good a shepherd as my father.



RANGSHIK drives a motorcycle toward the stone yard. He is clad in a new fabric robe, with a scarf around his head that only exposes his eyes. He wears fabric shoes and a pair of jeans.

DAYJID  
Who's that?

TSOMO  
No idea.

Lhadzom wants to say something but makes no sound.

Rangshik stops when he gets near them. He unwraps his scarf.

Lhadzom's face turns red.

JIMTSO  
Rangshik, it's you. I didn't recognize you until you removed that scarf.  
What brings you here?

RANGSHIK  
No purpose.

RANGSHIK gets off the motorcycle.

DAYLUK  
How are you?

RANGSHIK  
Good.

RANGSHIK (CONT'D)  
Give me a pair of shears. I'll help.

JIMTSO  
Go to my home and have some tea. My mother is at home.

RANGSHIK

No, thanks.

Rangshik unties his sash. The whip he carries to protect against ferocious dogs falls at his feet. He walks in a circle like a disabled man.

Dayjid and Tsomo look at him and quietly chuckle.

Rangshik folds up his robe and places it on the motorcycle. He takes a pair of shears near Jimtso and starts shearing.

JIMTSO

Those aren't sharp.

RANGSHIK

A man has no strength when the blades are dull.

Dayjid and Tsomo whisper to each other.

TSOMO

Is his family rich?

DAYJID

No, his family's not rich. His mother is a single parent, and Rangshik is her only child. He's my husband's friend and has visited our home several times.

TSOMO

I heard motorcycles are expensive. No one from our tribe bought a motorcycle. How could he have possibly bought it?

DAYJID

He borrowed money from his uncle.

Dayluk wipes sweat from his forehead and nose and sits on the ground.

DAYLUK

Lhadzom, get some bowls and a kettle of tea. Don't warm the tea.

LHADZOM

Okay.

Lhadzom glances at Rangshik as she walks home.

DAYLUK

You two rest. It's hard work.

RANGSHIK

It's okay.

JIMTSO

Okay.

Lhadzom places bowls on the ground and fills them with tea. She then joins Dayjid and Tsomo.

LHADZOM

You two have some cool tea. I won't let the sheep out of the yard.

TSOMO

Okay.

Dayjid and Tsomo join the three men.

Later, Rangshik pours tea into a bowl, holds the bowl, and walks toward Lhadzom.

Rangshik gives the bowl of tea to Lhadzom.

RANGSHIK

The sun is scorching. You must be thirsty. Have some cool tea.

Lhadzom takes it.

LHADZOM

You embarrass me. My parents are here.

RANGSHIK

It's okay.

Lhadzom pushes Rangshik a little bit.

LHADZOM

Please join them.

Rangshik reluctantly joins the others.

Rangshik grabs a ram's hind leg; Jimtso helps him and grabs its horns. Jimtso pulls the sheep out of the yard as Rangshik pushes the sheep from behind.

JIMTSO

Are you sure you're going to ride the sheep? It's wild and will throw you to the ground.

RANGSHIK

I'm a real man. I'm not afraid of this sheep. I've ridden big yaks without reins. They could not throw me off.

JIMTSO

Okay.

Jimtso grabs its horns tightly as Rangshik gets on it. Jimtso releases it.

The sheep suddenly jumps and runs.

Rangshik falls to the ground face down. He stands up and spits dirt and saliva.

Others howl with laughter.

Lhadzom lowers her head.

JIMTSO (CONT'D)

I told him it was a wild one.

RANGSHIK

I was not ready when you released it. I didn't have time to grab its neck hair.

JIMTSO

(laughs)

Ha-ha. You're not a real man. A sheep can throw you to the ground. No animal could throw me to the ground when I was your age.

DAYLUK

What a boaster!

Tsomo and Dayjid gather wool together.

JIMTSO

Lhadzom, can you drive the sheep into Golden Valley?

LHADZOM

Sure.

JIMTSO

Let's go to my home and have lunch together.

DAYLUK

Rangshik, let's go.

RANGSHIK

I'll help Lhadzom drive the sheep into the valley.

DAYLUK

It's okay. She can do that.

RANGSHIK

I have a motorcycle. She's tired, so she can ride with me on my motorcycle and return home.

DAYLUK

Okay, be careful.

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

Lhadzom stands next to Rangshik, who mounts his motorcycle.

LHADZOM

You embarrassed me today.

RANGSHIK

Don't worry. Sooner or later, they'll know about our relationship. Are you afraid your parents won't let you marry me?

LHADZOM

Not really, but there is a right time to let them know.

RANGSHIK

There is no right time. We get married, that's all.

LHADZOM

When will you take me to your home?

RANGSHIK

Right now.

LHADZOM

(shocked)

Impossible!

RANGSHIK

When will you be ready to go with me?

LHADZOM

Tomorrow my father and Jimtso will go to town to sell wool. Father will not be at home tomorrow night.

RANGSHIK

Okay. Get on my motorcycle.

Lhadzom gets on his motorcycle, and they go to Jimtso's home.

EXT. JIMTSO'S HOME THE NEXT DAY

Jimtso, Dayluk, Rangshik, and Dayjid pack big wool bundles on several yaks.

Jimtso and Dayluk mount horses.

JIMTSO

We'll be back tomorrow.

DAYJID

Okay. Be careful on the way.

RANGSHIK

Be careful on the way.

They drive the yaks toward the township town.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - NIGHT

Tsomo and Lhadzom sit on each side of the tent.

TSOMO

I hear you're dating Rangshik. His family's not rich. You won't have a good life if you marry him. He borrowed money and bought a motorcycle. If you marry a man from a rich family, you'll have a better life.

LHADZOM

It's okay if his family is not rich. I'll marry him, not his family's property. We decided to marry. He promised that he'd never leave me.

TSOMO

Stupid woman! Don't you know what a man says is not reliable? At first, he'll probably be kind to you, but later, he'll treat you badly.

LHADZOM

He promised to treat me as well as he treats his mother.

TSOMO

Your father will find a good husband for you. You should listen to him. He'll make the right decision for you.

LHADZOM

No, I don't need my father to find a husband for me. I can find a good husband.

TSOMO

Stupid! Marriage is such an important thing in life. If you choose the wrong man, you'll have a miserable life and regret it.

LHADZOM

(with rising anger)

I'm stupid. I know you don't love me, and you don't care about me. You promised to take me to Grandmother's several times when I was a child, but you never did. You don't need to care about my business. I'm going to marry him!

TSOMO

I'm your mother, so I'm concerned about your marriage. Don't marry the wrong man, or you'll not have a good life. If you don't listen to your parents, others will think you are a bad woman.



LHADZOM

I don't care how others judge me. They are not my parents.

TSOMO

What a stupid woman! You'll lead a miserable life.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Rangshik is standing on the river bank near Jimtso's family tent, looking into a small mirror and combing his black, short hair. He looks over at Lhadzom's tent after he finishes combing his hair.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Tsomo drives her family's yaks back home and enters her family's tent. Dayluk sits on one side of the tent.

DAYLUK

Where have you been?

TSOMO

I went to herd our family's yaks.

DAYLUK

Where is Lhadzom?

TSOMO

She disappeared last night.

DAYLUK

(shocked)

What's happened? Where could she have gone? Where can we find her?

TSOMO

Rangshik took her to his family.

DAYLUK

Lumtso's son, Rangshik?

TSOMO

Right.

DAYLUK

(curious)

How do you know this?

TSOMO

She told me she was going to marry him.

DAYLUK

Why didn't you tell me?

TSOMO

I thought they were just boyfriend and girlfriend. Last night, she told me she would marry him before we went to bed.

DAYLUK

I'll bring her back tomorrow.

TSOMO

I tried to persuade her not to do this. She didn't listen. Maybe it's better to let her marry whomever she wants.

DAYLUK

I want my daughter to marry a good man from a rich family. Rangshik's family is not rich.

TSOMO

Maybe it's their fate to be husband and wife. We can't change it. Something tragic might happen if you try to separate them. Let them marry.

Dayluk takes some packages of salt, white sugar, and a pair of fabric shoes from a saddlebag.

He gives sugar and salt to Tsomo and then tosses the shoes to the back of the tent.

DAYLUK

I bought these shoes for Lhadzom.

Next day

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

A saddled and bridled horse is tied to a post near Dayluk's home, waiting.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

SODJUCK sips milk tea and sits next to Dayluk.

SODJUCK

Rangshik brought your daughter to his home two days ago.

DAYLUK

Yeah.

SODJUCK

I hope you approve of the marriage.

DAYLUK

I planned to ask my daughter to marry our leader's son, but she wanted to marry your nephew. We can't do anything. I won't let my daughter marry and live far from my family. If she moves away from this community, I will worry too much.

SODJUCK

That's right.

TSOMO

I hope my daughter has a good life with your nephew's family.

SODJUCK

Don't worry. I'll tell my nephew to take good care of your daughter and be kind to her. I'll be responsible if he beats her or is unkind.

TSOMO

Thanks.

Sodjuck takes a *khaduk* and a piece of silk cloth from his robe pouch and presents them to Dayluk. He accepts them, confirming he approves of the marriage.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

A few stuffed leather bags and a wooden box are stacked in the upper part of the tent. Religious images and butter lamps are on an altar made from earth and stones.

Lhadzom cuts meat into small pieces on a plate. She pours water into a pot, sets it on the stove, and adds small pieces of meat into the pot.

Lumtso sits near Lhadzom.

Lhadzom gives a folded robe to Lumtso.

LHADZOM

Mother-in-law, lean against it and make yourself comfortable.

LUMTSO

Okay.

Lumtso takes it from Lhadzom, places it next to her, and leans against it.

Lhadzom takes the pot from the stove when the meat soup is cooked. She pours meat soup into a bowl and hands it to Lumtso.

LHADZOM

Meat soup is nutritious and good for your cold. Is your head still painful?

Lumtso takes the bowl.

LUMTSO

Yes.

LHADZOM

You should see a doctor. I'll ask Rangshik to take you to town. I'll herd the yaks.

LUMTSO

No, I'm okay.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom stands at her family's tent entrance. Rangshik looks into a small mirror, combing his hair on the small riverbank near their family's tent.

LHADZOM

(shouts)

Lunch is ready! Come and have lunch!

RANGSHIK

Okay.

Rangshik puts the comb and mirror into a basin and walks to his home.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Rangshik places the basin in the lower part of the tent and sits in his usual place.

Lhadzom offers a bowl of meat soup to Rangshik.

Rangshik takes it from Lhadzom.

LHADZOM

You should take your mother to see a doctor. Her head is still painful.

RANGSHIK

It's okay. It's just a cold.

LUMTSO

I don't need to see a doctor.

LHADZOM

Get some medicine for her.

RANGSHIK

I have to herd the yaks after lunch.

LHADZOM

I'll herd the yaks. You take her to see a doctor.

RANGSHIK

It's just a cold. It'll be better soon. Mother, I'll take you to the doctor if it's not better tomorrow.

LUMTSO

No need to see a doctor.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY YAK ENCLOSURE - DAY

Lhadzom gets on Rangshik's motorcycle. Rangshik grabs the bar above the motorcycle's rear wheel, preventing it from falling over.

Lumtso stands near the tent and watches. She shakes her head.

Lhadzom releases the clutch, and the motorcycle moves forward suddenly. Rangshik follows the motorcycle, clutching the bar above its rear wheel to prevent it from falling. The motorcycle falls over, and Lhadzom falls to the ground. Rangshik also falls to the ground, his foot caught under the motorcycle. Rangshik pushes the motorcycle with his other foot to release his other foot from under the motorcycle.

Rangshik limps around the motorcycle as Lhadzom stands up.

LHADZOM

What happened to your foot?

RANGSHIK

(groans)

The motorcycle hurt it.

LHADZOM

Let me have a look.

Rangshik sits and takes off his shoe and sock. There's no injury mark.

LHADZOM

Not serious.

Rangshik puts his shoe and sock back on. He walks unstably.

They lift the motorcycle. The glass on the front light and one rear mirror are broken. Rangshik gets on the motorcycle.

LHADZOM (CONT'D)

Your foot is injured. You rest at home, and I'll drive our family yaks from the mountain - no more practicing. Your mother is still watching us. Probably she's mad at me.

RANGSHIK

Okay.

Rangshik drives the motorcycle home.

Lhadzom walks toward a riding yak tied near their family's tent.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Rangshik takes a piece of broken glass from the motorcycle.

Lumtso squints at Rangshik.

Rangshik glances at Lumtso's gloomy, angry face in the motorcycle's rear mirror.

LUMTSO

(with a little anger)

Broke again. What a strange wife! She's the only woman who drives a motorcycle. It's not a good omen.

RANGSHIK

She won't need to ask me to drive her to visit her parents if she can drive a motorcycle. She can also drive a motorcycle to visit her grandmother. I promised her several times to take her to visit her grandmother but never did.

LUMTSO

You're a bad man. You can't control your wife. She'll become the family authority and manipulate you. It will shame you. Other families' daughters-in-law work hard and rarely visit their parents' homes. Your wife often visits her parents' home. Don't let her often visit her parents' home.

RANGSHIK

Mother, don't overthink. She just wants to learn to drive motorcycles. Visiting her parents is not a bad thing. She misses her parents.

LUMTSO

You can't let her drive a motorcycle again. I will leave the family if you let her drive the motorcycle again. She'll destroy our family's reputation if she drives a motorcycle.

RANGSHIK

(shaking his head)

Stop talking. I won't let her drive a motorcycle.

Rangshik enters the tent.



INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - NIGHT

Rangshik sits on one side of the tent, and Lumtso and Lhadzom sit on the other. Rangshik pours iodine on a small piece of cotton from a small box. He puts the wet cotton around his swollen foot.

LUMTSO

(to Lhadzom)

Don't drive a motorcycle. Your leg will be broken if you fall on the ground from the motorcycle. Rangshik can drive the motorcycle. He will take you wherever you want to go.

LDADZOM

If I can drive a motorcycle, I don't need to ask Rangshik when I want to go somewhere.

LUMTSO

It's not a good idea. I heard about a man from another tribe whose leg was broken in a motorcycle accident. You will be tortured for your whole life if your leg is broken.

RANGSHIK

You should listen to the person who cares about you.

LHADZOM

You are right. I should listen to others' suggestions. Otherwise, I'll get in trouble.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lumtso wears a new shirt and robe, puts on a new pair of shoes, and ties a silver belt to the sash.

Rangshik starts the motorcycle. Lumtso gets on behind Rangshik, who drives to town.

EXT. CLINIC

Brick rooms join one another in a row in a small yard. A doctor in his fifties fetches water from a well in the yard and heads toward a room.

INT. CLINIC - DAY

Boxes of medicine are on a shelf, and a metal stove is in the room center. A bunch of papers is on a table near the window. The doctor sits at the table, holds Lumtso's wrist, and checks her pulse. She sits on a four-legged wooden stool next to the doctor. Rangshik stands next to his mother.

DOCTOR

Don't worry. You've got a cold. I'll give you some medicine. Take it, and you'll soon recover.

LUMTSO

Okay, thanks!

The DOCTOR gives a few boxes of medicine to Lumtso.

RANGSHIK

How much?

DOCTOR

Thirty-two.

Rangshik gives thirty-two RMB to the doctor.

RANGSHIK

Here you go. Thanks!

Rangshik and Lumtso walk to the door.

RANGSHIK (CONT'D)

We're leaving.

DOCTOR

Be careful on the way.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - NIGHT

Lumtso swallows some pills.

LHADZOM

What did the doctor say?

LUMTSO

The doctor said I would get better if I took medicine.

RANGSHIK

I told you she just had a common cold.

LHADZOM

Great that it's not serious.

LUMTSO

Yeah.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY YAK ENCLOSURE - DAY

Lhadzom carries a basket on her back, bends over while collecting fresh yak dung patties from the ground with her hand, and tosses them into the basket. She shuffles slowly, carrying the basket full of yak dung.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Rangshik and Lumtso sit on each side of the tent and have tea.

RANGSHIK

Mother, can you herd yaks today? I want to take Lhadzom to participate in a religious rite.

LUMTSO

Young people don't like to chant and don't pay attention to what the lama says. I'll attend.

RANGSHIK

You know she's been pregnant for a month. It's good for the unborn baby if she joins the rite.

LUMTSO

You can take her next time.

RANGSHIK

(reluctantly)

Okay.

EXT. MONASTERY - DAY

Locals gather in front of a temple and piously chant scriptures and mantras.

Lumtso sits next to TSOYAK.

TSOYAK

How's your daughter-in-law?

LUMTSO

She's strange. She asked Rangshik to teach her to drive a motorcycle.

TSOYAK

How brave! I don't dare drive a motorcycle.

LUMTSO

It's not good for a woman to drive a motorcycle. None of the herds women from our town drive a motorcycle. She'll become notorious.

(Autumn)

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Tsomo combs her long hair on the small river bank.

Lhadzom sits near her and watches Tsomo combing her hair.

LHADZOM

Lumtso's a bad woman.

Tsomo stops combing her hair and stares at Lhadzom.

TSOMO

Why? Did she treat you badly?

LHADZOM

Not really.

TSOMO

Are you unkind to her?

LHADZOM

I tried my best to take good care of her. But she thinks I'm a horrible wife who controls her husband. She tells good things about me when I am with her, but she tells bad things about me when she is with others.

TSOMO

Don't worry about what she thinks. Older people with nothing to do often judge others.

LHADZOM

It hurts me. I can't bear it.

TSOMO

Face it. It's what you chose. Never think about divorce. Think about your unborn baby. The baby will be happy if its parents live together. Tomorrow, Rangshik will pick you up. You should go with him. Try your best, and everything will be okay.

Tsomo resumes combing her hair.

Lhadzom looks into the water and studies her reflection.

LHADZOM'S VOICE (V.O.)

My mother is unlike other mothers who want their children to have a happy life. She wants me to live with that ruthless old woman, Lumtso. She wants me to suffer for the rest of my life. Maybe she doesn't love me. Mother promised to do me a favor when I was a child, but she didn't. Maybe I shouldn't love her; maybe I should hate her.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom gets on Rangshik's motorcycle. Tsomo and Dayluk stand nearby. Rangshik starts the engine.

DAYLUK

Drive carefully.

TSOMO

Bye.

Rangshik drives away. Dayluk enters their tent.

Tsomo stands and watches them drive away.

A few days later

INT. INPATIENT WARD - DAY

There are two cots in the room. Tsomo lies on the cot situated next to the widow. A blanket covers her lower body, and her upper body lies against a folded blanket placed on her pillow. Dayluk sits on a stool next to Tsomo.

Tsomo looks at the IV bottle hanging over the holder beside her cot.

DAYLUK

It'll finish soon. Is your hand painful?

Tsomo glances at the back of her hand, where a needle transfers liquid into her vein.

TSOMO

No more pain. It was painful at the beginning.

DAYLUK

Good.

TSOMO

Put some yak dung into the stove. I feel so cold, even covered by blankets. Do you feel cold?

Dayluk stands and walks over to the stove in the middle of the room. He put some yak dung into the stove.

DAYLUK

It's warm inside the room. You've got a fever and feel cold.

EXT. CLINIC -DAY

Rangshik parks his motorcycle near the clinic gate and walks into the yard.

INT. INPATIENT WARD - DAY

Rangshik and Tsomo sit on stools near the stove. Dayluk sits on the cot.

RANGSHIK

What did the doctor say?

TSOMO

Not serious. A cold.

DAYLUK

It'll be okay after taking drugs and giving injections. This is our third day in the clinic. The doctor said we could go home after he gives another two IV bottles tomorrow.

RANGSHIK

That's great. Who is herding your family's yaks?

TSOMO

Jimtso is herding my family's yaks. How's Lhadzom?

RANGSHIK

She's good. I asked her to come with me today, but she didn't. She asked me to visit you.

TSOMO

It's okay since you came. There's no reason for her to come with you. She must be busy. It's good that she stays at home since she's pregnant.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom is cutting meat into small pieces on a plate. She stops working and touches her big belly.

Lumtso is kneading dough in a basin near Lhadzom. She looks at Lhadzom.

LUMTSO

Are you in pain? Rest. I'll cut the meat.

LHADZOM

I'm okay. I can do it.

INT. INPATIENT WARD - DAY

Dayluk and Tsomo sit on the stool near the stove.

DAYLUK

What a bad woman. She didn't visit her mother when her mother was seriously ill.

TSOMO

She must be busy.



DAYLUK

No matter how she was busy. She should come to visit you when you are seriously ill.

TSOMO

(pondering)

Maybe she is still mad at me. I scolded her the last time she came home.

DAYLUK

Why did you scold her?

Tsomo doesn't say anything.

EXT. DAYLUK'S FAMILY YAK ENCLOSURE - DAY

Rangshik is standing near Lhadzom, who is tethering a yak.

RANGSHIK

Your mother was seriously ill. You should visit her. She will return home tomorrow.

LHADZOM

She will not die from a cold. She doesn't love me. Why should I care about her?

RANGSHIK

Of course, your mother loves you. You can't say your mother doesn't love you just because she didn't keep her word or scolded you. We can visit her tomorrow.

Lhadzom and Rangshik walk toward their family's yak enclosure gate.

Months later (Winter)

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOUSE - DAY

Dayluk and Tsomo greet Rangshik and Lhadzom.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOUSE - DAY

A small adobe house with a window in a wooden frame and a wooden door.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOUSE - DAY

Boxes and stuffed leather bags are piled on one side of the house against a wall. Religious images, lamps, and seven copper bowls are on a small table in the upper corner. Bowls and glasses are on a shelf on the other side of the room. Kitchen utensils are next to the shelf. A metal stove is in the center of the room.

Rangshik and Dayluk sit on a mat on one side of the room. Lhadzom sits near the stove on the other side of the room. Tsomo washes bowls in a basin near Lhadzom.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOUSE - DAY

Rangshik mounts his motorcycle, puts the key in the ignition, starts the engine, and drives off.

DAYLUK

Drive safe.

RANGSHIK

Okay, bye.

DAYLUK

Bye.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - NIGHT

Lumtso touches her knees and stretches her legs on one side of the tent.

LUMTSO

My knees hurt. I herded our yaks on foot. I can't herd animals anymore.

RANGSHIK

Mother, you should ride the riding yak.

LUMTSO

I felt sorry for the yak. My daughter-in-law needs to care for the child after she gives birth. I can't help you herd the yaks.

RANGSHIK

Don't worry, Mother. I'll sell the yaks, and we'll move to town. We won't need to herd anymore. We'll have a happy town life.

LUMTSO

How can we survive in town?

RANGSHIK

Don't worry. I have a lot of ideas about how to make a living in town.

Lumtso touches her knees and moans.

EXT. DAYLUK'S FAMILY'S HOUSE YARD - NIGHT

A small white tent is pitched in the yard.

INT. WHITE TENT - NIGHT

Lhadzom lies on a mattress, covered with her robe, in the middle of the tent. She groans in pain.

Lhadzom gives birth to a baby boy. Tsomo cuts the umbilical cord with a small knife. Tsomo wraps the baby gently in a smooth wool cloth. She pours lukewarm yak milk into a new nursing bottle and nurses the baby.

INT. DAYLUK'S HOME - NIGHT

Tsomo holds the baby in her arms and enters the house.

Dayluk takes a holy scripture wrapped in yellow cloth from a wooden box and places it beside his family's shrine table in the upper right

corner. He holds the scripture over the baby and lightly touches it to the baby's head.

EXT. DAYLUK'S HOME – THE NEXT DAY

Tsomo holds the nursing bottle and runs out of the house. Lhadzom carries the baby in her robe and sits on the back of Rangshik's motorcycle. Dayluk stands near them. Tsomo gives the nursing bottle to Lhadzom.

TSOMO

You forgot the bottle. Sometimes, feed your breastmilk to the baby. It's good for the baby.

LHADZOM

Okay.

DAYLUK

Bye.

RANGSHIK

Bye.

Rangshik drives away.

EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

Snow covers everything. Only a few tents remain like black spots on white paper in the neighborhood.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Rangshik holds the baby on his lap. Lhadzom sits by him.

LHADZOM

Our family should build a house this year, or our son, NAHGONG, will freeze. Most families in our community have houses.

RANGSHIK

Not necessary. We can sell our family's yaks. We'll move to town next year. I've already decided to buy a house from a friend in town.

LHADZOM

Sell the yaks? How will we survive in town?

RANGSHIK

We'll run a small shop.

LHADZOM

I don't know any math.

RANGSHIK

It's okay. I know basic math.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S YAK ENCLOSURE - DAY

Lhadzom and Rangshik drive a bunch of yaks out of their family's yak enclosure.

Trinpo and his friend mount their horses and drive the yaks away.

TRINPO

Bye.

RANGSHIK

Bye.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lumtso nurses the baby on one side of the tent. Rangshik sits on the other side.

RANGSHIK

I sold a few yaks. The price was pretty good. Trinpo said he'd buy our family's female yaks this summer.

LUMTSO

I want to sell all the female yaks as free-life yaks.

RANGSHIK

Free-life yaks sell for less.

LUMTSO

It's okay. I don't want our female yaks slaughtered. They offer us dairy products. We can't let others kill them.

RANGSHIK

Ridiculous! Some businessmen bought yaks from others as free-life yaks and then sold them to Muslims to slaughter.

LUMTSO

I still want to sell the female yaks as free-life yaks; otherwise, I won't sell them. Trinpo is a good man. He's not the type to forget a promise.

RANGSHIK

If you don't sell them, you herd them alone. We want to move to town.

LUMTSO

Okay. That's better than selling them as free-life yaks.

RANGSHIK

What a stubborn old woman. Okay, I'll sell the yaks as free-life yaks to Trinpo.

LUMTSO

You are sinful! You just sold our family's male yaks to Trinpo. He'll sell them to Muslims to slaughter. How sinful!

RANGSHIK

oM ma Ni pad me hA+oM

LUMTSO

oM ma Ni pad me hA+oM. May all male yaks go to Heaven after they're killed.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S HOUSE YARD - DAY

Rangshik gets on his motorcycle and starts the engine.

Lhadzom walks to him from the yak enclosure.

RANGSHIK

I'm going to town. I'll buy the house from my friend. We can move to town after selling the female yaks this autumn.

LHADZOM

Okay. Buy a package of milk powder and some bottle nipples for Nahgong.

RANGSHIK

Okay. Should I buy anything else?

LHADZOMN

Maybe. Does Mother-in-law need something?

RANGSHIK

I already asked her. I'll be back today.

LHADZOM

Drive carefully. Don't drive too fast.

RANGSHIK

Okay.

Rangshik drives away.

Months later (Autumn)

EXT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom brings a pot of flour soup to her family's watchdog.

The watchdog lies on the ground and doesn't raise its head as Lhadzom approaches. Lhadzom looks into the basin near the dog. It's full of leftover food. Lhadzom brings the pot of flour soup back into the tent.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lumtso puts pieces of butter into a kettle and places the kettle on the stove.

LHADZOM

Our family's dog didn't eat the food I had offered this morning. He's ill.

LUMTSO

No. He's old and losing his appetite.

LHADZOM

Poor dog.

LUMTSO

All animals are the same. They lose their appetite when they get old. Old people only eat a small amount of food and feel full.

LHADZOM

Right.

INT. OFFERING INCENSE- SUNSET

Bits of juniper, colorful pieces of silk, roasted barley, and a big piece of butter are smoldering on an altar piled with pebbles at the back of Rangshik's family's tent. Rangshik circles the altar and tosses wind horses into the air. Wind horses flutter in the air in thick smoke.



RANGSHIK

... Deity xx, Diety xx, ...

Escort me when I go somewhere, greet me when I come back.

Protect my family and prevent them from getting ill. Empower me and ensure everything goes as I wish. ... Deity xx, Deity xx, ...

When I call you three times, come see me three times at the speed of lightning.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

A truck stops near Rangshik's family tent.

Rangshik and the truck DRIVER fold up the family tent. Lhadzom packs their family belongings into big bags. The stuffed bags are loaded on the truck.

Lumtso carries Nahgong inside her robe and sits against a big bag.

Rangshik, the TRUCK DRIVER, and Lhadzom load the tent and other bags onto the truck.

They finish loading and sit on the ground.

RANGSHIK

They'll be here soon.

TRUCK DRIVER

No, worries. The road's good. It'll take about one hour to get to town from here.

Lhadzom pours tea from a kettle into two bowls and offers them to Rangshik and the TRUCK DRIVER.

TRUCK DRIVER

(sips the tea)

This is good.

Trinpo and his two friends approach, each riding a horse toward Rangshik.

Trinpo and his friends arrive.

TRINPO

Sorry, we're late.

RANGSHIK

It's okay. We just finished loading the truck. Please dismount and have some tea.

TRINPO

No, thanks.

Trinpo and his friends drive the yaks away.

Rangshik unchains his family's watchdog, puts the chain into a bag, and puts the bag on the truck.

LHADZOM

Shall we put the dog in the truck?

RANGSHIK

No, leave him here. He's old and has lost his mind. It's better to let him be a stray dog.

LHADZOM

What a miserable person! You don't have a compassionate heart. He'll starve to death.

RANGSHIK

Don't worry. He'll find something to eat. He's lost his mind. We can't take him with us. He'll die soon.

Lumtso gets on the truck with Nahgong. Rangshik and Lhadzom get on the motorcycle.

They drive toward town.

Music

The old dog wanders around where the family's tent had been.  
Smoke rises from the ground where the family's stove had been.  
The truck and motorcycle head toward the township town. Trinpo  
and his friends drive the yaks in the opposite direction.

Five years later

EXT. TOWN - DAY

A road divides the town into two sections. Cars and motorcycles pass  
on the street. Dogs search for food among garbage piles.

Some pack yaks and horses are tied to an electrical pole.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S HOUSE BACKYARD - DAY

Lumtso sits in an armchair in the back of her family's home. She spins  
a prayer wheel in her right hand and holds prayer beads in the other  
hand.

The prayer wheel almost falls to the ground as she dozes.

INT. RANGSHIK'S SHOP - DAY

Huarzeng enters the shop.

Lhadzom stands behind a display case in the shop.

LHADZOM

How are you, Uncle? (An honorific.)

HUARZENG

Good. How's business?

LHADZOM

Not good. How's Gangzhung doing?

HUARZENG

She's doing good.

LHADZOM

I haven't seen her for months. I miss her.

HUARZENG

I'll ask her to visit you next time.

LHADZOM

That's really good.

HUARZENG

Give me a package of detergent, a box of matches, and three packages of salt.

Lhadzom walks into one corner and searches for detergent and salt behind a display case.

LHADZOM

No salt and detergent. Sold out. We decided to buy more supplies from the county town shops. Rangshik often delays going there.

Lhadzom hands a box of matches to Huarzeng.

Huarzeng takes it and points at a package of candies on a shelf.

HUARZENG

Give me two packages of that candy.

Lhadzom gives him two packages of candy.

Huarzeng takes them from Lhadzom and gives her 100 RMB.

Lhadzom presses buttons on a calculator and gives change to Huarzeng.

HUARZENG (CONT'D)

Town life must be good.

LHADZOM

Herding life is better. It's boring in town. Time passes so slowly.

HUARZENG

We herders admire people who live in town. They don't need to herd yaks in harsh weather and can always rest at home.

LHADZOM

Township life is not as joyful as you think.

HUARZENG

Okay. I'm leaving.

Lhadzom walks to the small door inside the shop.

LHADZOM

Come inside. We live in this room. Have some tea.

HUARZENG

No, thanks. I've got to return home early.

LHADZOM

Be careful on the way.

HUARZENG

Okay.

INT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lumtso sits on a cot near the window with a bowl of rice and meat with vegetables. Rangshik sits on a stool near the stove. Lhadzom sits on a stool and hands a bowl of food to Rangshik.

RANGSHIK

Don't miscalculate next time.

LHADZOM

Is something wrong? I got the same results on the calculator twice.

LUMTSO

Each time you miscalculated. We can't make money this way.

RANGSHIK

You gave fifteen RMB too much to Huarzeng. We lost money on this transaction.

LHADZOM

I told you my math was poor and asked you to operate the shop. You often wander off with your friends, ignoring business.

RANGSHIK

(angrily)

Shut up!

They are all silent and eat.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

GANGTSO, in her early thirties, wears gold earrings, a gold necklace, a new fabric robe, and an apron. She sits next to Lhadzom. They share a table near the window.

There are tables and stools in the restaurant. A big metal stove is in the center of the room. A big pot and kettles are on the stove. A display case is in a corner near a door that leads to a small room that serves as a kitchen. It has various beverages.

Gangtso holds the thermos from the table and refills Lhadzom's cup.

LHADZOM

Thanks. Cousin.

Lhadzom looks at Gangtso's gold necklace and touches it.

LHADZOM

What a beautiful necklace! I admire your life. You can make money and buy whatever you want.

GANGTSO

It's hard to earn money as a single woman. Couples cooperate and make a lot of money.

LHADZOM

It's better to live alone rather than live with a bad husband. A bad husband gambles or wastes the money earned by his wife.

GANGTSO

Living with a man is better than living alone.

LHADZOM

I imagine living alone is better than living with a bad mother-in-law who often criticizes her daughter-in-law no matter how kind the daughter-in-law is to her.

Gangtso says nothing and looks out the window.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

A man in his fifties holds a beer bottle in his hand and stumbles across the road. One end of his red sash drags on the ground.

A young man drives a motorcycle fast and almost hits him.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

GANGTSO

What a crazy young man. Almost hit him.

LHADZOM

That man is so pitiful. Each time he quarrels with his wife, he drinks heavily.

GANGTSO

He and his wife are in their fifties. They should stop quarreling.  
Quarreling solves no problems.

LHADZOM

Right. Quarreling ruins the family's happiness.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The man swigs beer from the bottle as he crosses the road.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Two young men ride a motorcycle. They stop their motorcycle at the door of the restaurant.

They dismount and read "GOLDEN TOWN DUMPLING RESTAURANT" in big letters above the restaurant, written on a wooden board.

They enter the restaurant.

Gangtso stands up as the young men sit at a table near the stove. She takes a kettle from the stove and two paper cups from the display case.

She offers tea to the young men.

Gangtso looks at one man wearing a cap. He seems younger than the other.

GANGTSO

What are you going to eat?

The younger man looks at the other.

YOUNGER MAN

What shall we eat?

The older man looks at Gangtso.



OLDER MAN

What do you offer?

GANGTSO

We only offer dumplings.

OLDER MAN

Okay. Thirty dumplings for us.

The older man looks at the younger one.

OLDER MAN

Is thirty enough for us?

YOUNGER MAN

It's enough. We can order more later if it's not enough.

Gangtso walks toward the kitchen.

LHADZOM

Cousin, I'm leaving.

GANGTSO

Okay. Come chat with me if you have time.

LHADZOM

Okay.

The younger man watches Gangtso walk out the door.

The younger man has a sip and looks at the older man.

YOUNGER MAN

What a happy woman! Only she wears such a big gold necklace in our town.

OLDER MAN

Why are you sure she's happy?

YOUNGER MAN

If you have a gold necklace, aren't you happy? You never had a gold necklace, so you don't know owning precious adornments makes you happy.

OLDER MAN

It sounds like you have a lot of precious stuff, but you don't. Gold necklaces are just metal chains. I don't think they are valuable.

The younger man chuckles.

YOUNGER MAN

You can't afford Gangtso's gold necklace, even if it's just a metal chain.

The older man says nothing and sips tea.

INT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nahgong checks as Lhadzom presses buttons on the calculator.

Lhadzom sits on a stool. Her elbows are on a table where the calculator is.

NAHGONG

You pressed the wrong button again.

Nahgong points to the plus button.

NAHGONG (CONT'D)

This is a plus button.

Nahgong points to the minus button.

NAHGONG (CONT'D)

This is a minus button.

LHADZOM

Okay. Sometimes I am confused by these buttons and make mistakes.

NAHGONG

Try again. Twenty-minus-six is what?

Lhadzom calculates.

LHADZOM

Twenty-six.

NAHGONG

No, you pressed the wrong button.

Nahgong gets on Lhadzom's lap.

NAHGONG (CONT'D)

Mother, I'm tired.

LHADZOM

Teach me for ten more minutes. I'll give you a cola and biscuits then.

Nahgong smiles.

Lhadzom enters the adjoining shop room and brings a bottle of cola and a small pack of biscuits. Lhadzom presses buttons on the calculator. Nahgong drinks cola and eats biscuits. Lumtso sits on the cot and dozes.

EXT. STREET ROAD - DAY

A small white car moves down the dirt road dividing the small town into two sections. It parks near Rangshik's shop entrance. The driver toots the horn.

The driver is thirtyish, a local female government clerk, and clad in a white shirt and blue jeans. As Lhadzom emerges from the shop, the driver rolls down the passenger seat window and lifts her dark sunglasses above her nose.

CLERK

Is your husband at home?

LHADZOM

No.

CLERK

Okay.

LHADZOM

Come in and have some tea.

CLERK

No, thanks. When will he be back?

LHADZOM

I don't know.

CLERK

That's okay. We're recruiting street sweepers. We offer good pay. Are you interested?

LHADZOM

I don't know. I have to ask my husband. I can't make any decision without asking him.

CLERK

Discuss with your husband once he's back, and let me know.

LHADZOM

Okay. Come in and have tea.

CLERK

No, thanks. I'm busy.

Lhazdom watches as the car drives away. Lumtso comes out and joins Lhazdom.

LUMTSO

Who was that?

LHADZOM

A government clerk. I don't know her name.

LUMTSO

What did she say?

LHADZOM

She asked me if I wanted to be a street sweeper.

LUMTSO

(chuckles)

Only poor people are street sweepers. If you are a street sweeper, others will think our family is very poor.

LHADZOM

Right.

They watch dogs gnawing on bones around garbage scattered on both sides of the road.

LHADZOM

What a lucky woman!

LUMTSO

Who?

LHADZOM

That government clerk. She has a good job and can drive anywhere she wants. She doesn't have to ask her husband to drive her. I also want to learn to drive like her.

Lumtso scowls at Lhadzon and goes back into the shop.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom opens the door of Rangshik's car. Rangshik stands next to Lhadzom.

LHADZOM

Give me the key. I'm going to practice driving.

RANGSHIK

You have already learned how to drive.

LHADZOM

Not really. Give me the key.

INT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lumtso sits on the cot and watches Rangshik and Lhadzom.

LUMTSO

What a crazy woman!

EXT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

RANGSHIK

Mother will scold me if she discovers I let you drive the car.

LHADZOM

She always scolds you and me. Let her scold us.

Rangshik hands Lhadzom the key.

Lhadzom drives away.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY HOUSE YARD - DAY

The car's front bumper is damaged. Rangshik inspects the damage.

RANGSHIK

How did you break it?

LHADZOM

I didn't see a big rock on the road.

Rangshik gets in the car.

RANGSHIK

I'll go fix it. Mother will scold us if she discovers it.

Nahgong comes from the house and looks at the car's broken part.

NAHGONG

Mother, you damaged the car again?

LHADZOM

Don't tell your grandmother.

Nahgong nods.

NAHGONG

Father, I want to go with you.

RANGSHIK

No, stay at home and do your homework.

NAHGONG

I don't have any homework.

RANGSHIK

Don't lie to me!

Nahgong angrily rushes into the house.

INT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lumtso squints at Lhadzom.

LUMTSO

(angrily)

Women shouldn't drive cars. Do you know any woman who drives a car in our community? You damaged the car again. Rangshik doesn't have much money to fix the car each time you damage it.

Lhadzom cleans the kettle on the stove.

LHADZOM

(angrily)

What's wrong with me driving a car? You aren't a queen and can't order me to follow your idea. I'm not your family's slave. Don't treat me like a slave. You can ask your son to divorce me if you don't want to live with me.

Lumtso looks at Lhadzom's face and doesn't say anything.

Lhadzom walks into the shop room after cleaning the kettle.

INT. RANGSHIK'S SHOP ROOM - DAY

Lhadzom puts her elbow on the display case and ponders.

Nahgong enters the shop room.

NAHGONG

Mother, I want to drink a cola.

LHADZOM

What a bigmouth boy! Like a girl. I'll beat you to death if you report on me again.

Nahgong looks at Lhadzom's angry face and returns to the living room.



EXT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY HOUSE YARD - DAY

Tsoyak sits on a stool by Lumtso, who sits in an armchair.

LUMTSO

Rangshik is a bad man. He doesn't listen to me. Instead, he listens to his crazy wife.

TSOYAK

A bad wife makes her husband a bad man.

LUMTSO

He lets his wife drive the car. Others say Lhadzom dominates Rangshik. This destroys his and our family's reputation.

TSOYAK

Only crazy women drive cars and motorcycles. It's horrible for a woman to drive motorcycles and cars. You should tell Rangshik to stop Lhadzom from driving.

LUMTSO

He's bad. He doesn't listen to me anymore.

INT. RANGSHIK'S SHOP ROOM - DAY

A young policeman and an older policeman enter the shop. They check the dates on small packages of snacks in the display case.

A policeman points to several packages of snacks.

OLDER POLICEMAN

These are expired. You can't sell snacks with expired dates. We're going to take them.

LHADZOM

(puzzled)

Okay. I don't know much about date expirations.

YOUNG POLICE

Do you have more of these snacks?

LHADZOM

No.

OLDER POLICEMAN

We're going to confiscate all these expired snacks.

The young policeman puts the snacks into a big bag. They leave.

INT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rangshik sits on a stool near the stove next to Lhadzom. Lumtso and Nahgong sleep on a cot near the window.

RANGSHIK

I told you not to buy those snacks.

LHADZOM

Children like snacks.

RANGSHIK

You don't make money. Instead, you lose money.

LHADZOM

You operate the shop from now on. I'm not going to operate the shop anymore. We'll see how you support your family.

RANGSHIK

I don't care. It's up to you.

LHADZOM

I told you we shouldn't move to town. We don't know how to support ourselves in town. You said we would run a business, and you would operate it. Now, you wander everywhere like a stray dog.

Rangshik slaps Lhadzom.

Lumtso and Nahgong wake up and raise their heads.

LUMTSO

What's wrong?

RANGSHIK

Nothing's wrong.

LUMTSO

Don't quarrel.

RANGSHIK

(angrily)

Shut up! Go to bed.

Silence.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S SHOP - DAY

Rangshik gets in the car.

Lhadzom comes out of the shop and walks over to Rangshik.

LHADZOM

I also want to go to the county town.

RANGSHIK

Why? What are you going to do?

LHADZOM

I want to visit my grandmother.

RANGSHIK

Visit next time. Nobody will operate our shop if we both go to the county town. You can go next time, and I'll operate the shop.

LHADZOM

(angrily)

Don't lie and make excuses. Both you and my mother are unreliable.  
I can drive the car and visit Grandmother.

Lhadzom walks into the shop.

INT. RANGSHIK'S FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Drashe sips tea from a glass and looks at Lhadzom's swollen face.

DRASHE

Did you quarrel again? Did he beat you?

LHADZOM

No, he didn't beat me. We just squabbled.

DRASHE

It's better to divorce than quarrel like this. Where's Rangshik?

LHADZOM

He went to the county town to meet a friend.

DRASHE

Oh.

Nahgong enters the living room and sits next to Drashe.

DRASHE

Where have you been?

NAHGONG

Playing in the backyard.

DRASHE

Where's your grandmother?

NAHGONG

She's in the yard.

DRASHE

You don't need to go to school?

NAHGONG

Today is Saturday.

DRASHE

I see.

Lhadzom refills Drashe's cup. Drashe looks at Lhadzom's cheek.

DRASHE

What's wrong with your cheek?

LHADZOM

Nothing.

DRASHE

It's red.

NAHGONG

Father slapped her last night.

DRASHE

(puzzled)

Why? Why did he slap you?

LHADZOM

Forget it. I'm okay.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S SHOP - DAY

Drashe walks out of the room and mounts his motorcycle.

Lhadzom stands near Drashe.

DRASHE

I'm going home.

LHADZOM

Don't tell our parents Rangshik beat me, or they'll be unhappy and worried.

DRASHE

Okay.

DRASHE drives away.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom is lying in her bed, a wet towel on her forehead. Lumtso hands pills and a glass of lukewarm water to Lhadzom.

LUMTSO

Take these pills. You'll be better if you take them.

Lhadzom raises her head while taking the wet towel from her forehead and placing it on her pillow. She touches her forehead.

LHADZOM

My fever is gone.

LUMTSO

Great.

Lhadzom takes the pills and glass from Lumtso. Lhadzom puts the pills into her mouth and sips water from the glass. She puts her head back on her pillow. Lumtso pulls a big quilt over Lhadzom's head.

LUMTSO

What do you want to eat? I'll cook for you.

LHADZOM

No, thanks. I don't want to eat.

LUMTSO

You should eat. It's good for your cold.

LHADZOM

I have no appetite.

Two years later

EXT. MONASTERY - DAY

There is a big temple in the center of the monastery. Smoke rises from the altars.

Monks and old worshipers walk around the temple, circumambulating the stupas.

INT. TSOKHO 'S HOME - DAY

A wooden bed is next to a window in a small room. Kitchen items are near bags containing food inside the room. A small wooden shelf in one corner of the living room has bowls and empty glasses. A long, narrow table is in another corner. Religious images, seven small copper bowls filled with water, a small image of a religious figure in a copper bowl full of water, and butter lamps are on the table.

TSOKHO rinses two bowls in a basin near the living room door and tosses out the wash water.

Tsomo and Lhadzom sit near Grandmother.

TSOMO

Help your grandmother clean the bowls.

Lhadzom stands up and walks to Tsokho.

LHADZOM

Let me clean them.

TSOKHO

I'll clean them. You're my guest. Sit. I'll serve tea.

Tsokho offers a plate of fried bread and bowls of milk tea to Tsomo and Lhadzom, then goes out to a small storeroom and brings back a bag of frozen yak ribs. She pours water into a pot, sets it on the stove, adds the ribs, and sprinkles some salt into it.

Tsokho gets the kettle from the stove, refills Tsomo and Lhadzom's bowls, and then pours tea into her bowl. She sits next to Tsomo.

TSOKHO

How's your son? Is he mischievous?

LHADZOM

He's good. He's really naughty. I didn't bring him with me today.

TSOKHO

I want to meet my great-grandson. Please bring him the next time you visit.

LHADZOM

Okay. I'll bring him the next time I visit.

TSOKHO

How are your husband and his mother?

LHADZOM

Good.

TSOKHO

Good. How're Dayluk and Drashe?

TSOMO

Dayluk's good. Drashe will graduate soon.

TSOKHO

Great. I haven't seen Drashe for a year.



TSOMO

Mother, I'll ask him to visit you soon.

TSOKHO

Okay. Thanks.

After the water inside the pot boils for a few minutes, Tsokho takes the pot from the stove and places it near her kitchen items in the living room corner where she often sits. Transferring the meat into a plastic basin, she places it between Tsomo and Lhadzom.

TSOKHO (CONT'D)

Please have some meat.

Tsokho hands each of them a knife.

Tsokho selects a rib from the basin and hands it to Lhadzom.

TSOKHO (CONT'D)

Eat.

Lhadzom takes it from Tsokho and picks up the knife.

LHADZOM

Okay.

Tsomo cuts a piece of meat from a rib and gives it to Tsokho.

TSOMO

Mother, eat this.

Tsokho takes it.

TSOKHO

You two must have more meat.

TSOKHO (CONT'D)

Is your husband kind to you? Does he beat you?

LHADZOM

He's kind and never beats me.

TSOMO

Rangshik's a good man. She's lucky she married him.

TSOKHO

I'm very glad she married a good man. You're also lucky. Your husband never beats you and is kind to you. I'm glad you both have good husbands.

TSOMO

True. It is so important that a woman marries a good man!

TSOKHO

Is your husband's mother kind to you?

LHADZOM

Yes, she's kind to me.

TSOKHO

Great. How's town life?

LHADZOM

I don't need to herd yaks, so it's good.

TSOKHO

Herding is hard work.

TSOMO

Right.

INT. TSOKHO'S HOME - NIGHT

Lhadzom sips tea from her bowl and watches her phone.

LHADZOM

Tsokho, it's one AM. Shall we go to bed?

TSOKHO

Wow! Time passes so quickly when we chat.

TSOMO

It's late. Let's go to bed.

INT. CAR – NEXT DAY

Lhadzom drives the car.

LHADZOM

Finally, I visited my grandmother with you.

TSOMO

You're a good granddaughter. You visited your grandmother and made her happy.

LHADZOM

I struggled to learn to drive a car. Now I can drive a car and visit my grandmother.

TSOMO

You're brave enough to drive a car. I'm afraid to drive a car.

LHADZOM

Why didn't you bring me to visit her when I was a child?

TSOMO

You told others whatever you saw and heard when you were a child. Each time I visited my mother, she asked, 'Is your husband kind to you? Does he beat you?' I always lied. You would have told the truth and made Mother unhappy if you had been with me. She arranged my marriage and worries a lot about me.

Tsomo says nothing and continues driving.

LHADZOM'S VOICE (V.O.)

I realized then that I had misunderstood my mother as a child. I often thought my mother didn't love me and didn't care about me, but the truth was that I was talkative and would have told Grandmother bad things and made her unhappy. Now I can forgive Mother for not taking me with her. I didn't bring my son with me to visit Grandmother. I'm sure he would have told her that my husband and I often quarrel, and sometimes he beats me. I don't want to make Mother and Grandmother unhappy and worry about me. I want them to be happy. I'm proud I faced difficulties, learned to drive a car, and visited Grandmother with Mother. The reason I learned to drive is to visit Grandmother. I misunderstood Mother. I accumulated a lot of sins by misunderstanding her. My paternal grandmother told me sins could be redeemed. The question is, how am I going to redeem these sins? Should I apologize to Mother or do a religious ritual?

They drive along through a vast grassland leading to the county town.

EXT. COUNTY TOWN - DAY

Cars and motorcycles pass on the streets.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lhadzom parks the car in front of a cloth shop.

Tsomo and Lhadzom enter the shop. They check jackets and pants hanging on the wall.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Lhadzom parks the car on the side of the road.

Lhadzom and Tsomo get out of the car and pee.

They sit on the ground by each other.

LHADZOM

Mother, you love your mother a lot, right?

TSOMO

Stupid! Everyone loves their mothers a lot.

Lhadzom smiles and leans her head against Tsomo's shoulder.

LHADZOM

You're a good mother. I love you.

Tsomo smiles and tilts her head down.

They later get in the car and drive down the road through endless grassland leading to their homes.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - NIGHT

Lumtso sits on the cot where Drashe sleeps. She squints at Lhadzom. Lhadzom sits on a stool and leans against the wall.

Rangshik sits next to Lhadzom.

RANGSHIK

What did you buy in the county town?

LHADZOM

A pair of pants.

Lhadzom takes the pants from a plastic bag.

RANGSHIK

For me?

LHADZOM

For myself.

RANGSHIK

Okay, but maybe pants are not suitable for you.

Lumtso squints at Lhadzom and starts to say something but stops.

INT. TEA PLACE - DAY

Rangshik and three men sit around a square table in a private room. Several other men sit beside or stand behind them and watch as they play cards.

A thick stack of cash sits on the table before each player.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Rangshik and his friend lie on beds in a hotel room.

FRIEND

When are you going home?

RANGSHIK

In a few days. I can't go home yet. Someone told my mother and my wife about my gambling. They'll scold me if I go home soon.

FRIEND

Right. How much did you lose today?

RANGSHIK

Around ten thousand.

FRIEND

You're a good gambler. You'll earn it back soon.

RANGSHIK

I'm not lucky these days, so I won't gamble for a while.

Rangshik dials a number.

On the other end, a WOMAN answers.

WOMAN

Today must be a good day. You called me. Where are you?

RANGSHIK

I'm in a hotel in the county town. Are you in the county town?

WOMAN

Yes.

RANGSHIK

Are you alone?

WOMAN

Yes.

RANGSHIK

Long time no see. Shall we meet tonight?

FRIEND gets up from the bed, walks to the washroom, and washes his face.

FRIEND comes back to his bed.

Rangshik looks at his friend.

RANGSHIK

My girlfriend will come in around ten minutes. Can you move to another room?

FRIEND

Okay. Who is she?

RANGSHIK

I'll tell you tomorrow.

A month later

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOUSE YARD - DAY

Lumtso sits in an armchair, basking in the sun in the yard. Rangshik joins her.

LUMTSO

Stop gambling. If you don't, I'll jump into the Yellow River.

Rangshik squats next to Lumtso and clutches her hand.

RANGSHIK

Mother, I'll stop gambling.

LUMTSO

I can't live with your wife. A few days ago, she wore the pants she bought from the county town. It's disgusting. I have never seen a herdsman wear pants before this. What's wrong with her? She's out of her mind. She drives a motorcycle and a car and wears pants. Her odd behavior is destroying our family's reputation.

RANGSHIK

You didn't let her drive a motorcycle. We can't stop her. She isn't enslaved. There is nothing wrong with her driving a car to visit her grandmother. Who will you live with if you don't live with us?

LUMTSO

It's good for you if you think what your wife is doing is good. My sister lives near the monastery. I'm old and will die soon. I need to chant scriptures. I have no time to deal with your wife's business.

RANGSHIK

I hope you continue living with us. Others will gossip about our family if you don't live with us.

LUMTSO

I told you I couldn't live with her. Let others say whatever they want. We can't zip others' mouths.



LUMTSO

(pondering)

If I can't go live with my sister, I prefer to herd yaks in the mountains instead of living in this boring town. I told you often to buy some yaks and return to a herding life, but you always refused.

RANGSHIK

Mother, you're old, and you can't herd yaks. You can't herd yaks ever again. It's now time for you to enjoy your life. Maybe you don't realize how wonderful your life is in town. You don't need to herd in harsh weather as you did in the past. You don't need to do anything except rest the whole day.

LUMTSO

The most boring thing is to do nothing all day. I miss the herding life, even if it's hard. I never felt bored to death when I was herding yaks.

RANGSHIK

Mother, we can't go back and herd yaks. Your grandson is attending school in town. We live in the town and have to take care of him.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Lhadzom packs Lumtso's clothes into bags.

INT. CAR - DAY

Rangshik glances at Lumtso as he drives the car.

RANGSHIK

Mother, this year you are staying with your sister. Next year, I'll build a house for you next to your sister's home.

LUMTSO

Okay. Please stop gambling. You'll lose all our family's property. Gambling is sinful. It makes you a bad person.

RANGSHIK

Yes, mother. I'll stop gambling.

LUMTSO

Son, don't be too kind to your wife, or she'll control you.

RANGSHIK

If she tries to control me, I'll kick her out of our family.

LUMTSO

Not easy to get a divorce. Sometimes you should stop her from doing crazy things. No herdsman drives a car or motorcycle in our community.

RANGSHIK

Okay. A woman who works for the local government drives a car.

LUMTSO

They're different. She's a government clerk. Your wife is a herdsman.

Rangshik nods.

INT. RANGSHIK'S SHOP - DAY

Rangshik stands near the entrance of the shop. Lhadzom stands near the display case.

RANGSHIK

Now, are you happy? You often told me that my mother bothered you all the time.

LHADZOM

She doesn't want to live with us. I didn't ask her to leave.

RANGSHIK

You often say a lot of nonsense.

Rangshik leaves.

EXT. CAR - DAY

As Rangshik gets in the car and starts the engine, Lhadzom exits the shop.

LHADZOM

Where are you going?

RANGSHIK

I'm going to the county town. I have to meet a friend.

LHADZOM

What business are you going to do with your friend?

RANGSHIK

None of your business.

Rangshik drives away.

Music

Lhadzom watches Rangshik drives away.

A few months later

INT. RANGSHIK'S SHOP - DAY

Gangzhung enters the shop. Lhadzom sits on a stool in the shop. She stands when she sees Gangzhung.

LHADZOM

What a great day! How are you, Sister? (Cousin) You've lost a lot of weight. Are you sick?

GANGZHUNG

I'm good. I herded yaks on foot and lost weight. We haven't seen each other for a long time.

LHADZOM

Right. You should ride a horse and a yak when you herd. I'm so glad you came to see me!

GANGZHUNG

I pity horses and yaks, so I rarely ride them. How's business?

Lhadzom points to the empty shelves.

LHADZOM

Not good. All the shelves are empty. Rangshik rarely stays at home, and I can't go to the county town to buy supplies to sell in the shop.

GANGZHUNG

Don't worry about business. You are lucky. You don't need to herd yaks like me.

LHADZOM

Right, I have no hard work to do. What brought you here?

GANGZHUNG

Some of my cousins and friends will go on a pilgrimage to Lhasa. One of them asked me to join them. I told my husband, and he agreed. I came to town to buy some stuff.

LHADZOM

Great!

GANGZHUNG

You can join us if you like. You can ask your husband.

LHADZOM

I want to go to Lhasa with you. When will you start?

GANGZHUNG

The day after tomorrow. We'll gather in town tomorrow morning.

LHADZOM

Okay.

GANGZHUNG

I'm taking off. I have to buy a raincoat.

LHADZOM

Bye.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - NIGHT

Lhadzom calls Rangshik, but there is no answer.

INT. TEA PLACE - NIGHT

Rangshik and three other people sit around a table in a private room playing cards.

Rangshik reads his wife's message on his phone's screen as his phone rings. He turns the phone off.

RANGSHIK

It's my wife. I can't answer.

PLAYER 1

Are you afraid of your wife?

RANGSHIK

Someone told my wife I'm gambling. She'll scold me.

PLAYER 1

Kidding, Brother.

INT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - NIGHT

Lhadzom dials again and again. No answer.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Pilgrims have packs on their backs, hold long sticks, and walk along a road.

Lhadzom wraps her head with a red scarf and walks near Gangzhung.

GANGZHUNG

Did you talk to your husband about this journey?

LHADZOM

No. I didn't tell him.

GANGZHUNG

You should tell him. He'll scold you. Why didn't you tell him?

LHADZOM

It's okay. I'll call later and tell him I'm going to Lhasa with you. He'll not worry about me if I'm with you.

GANGZHUNG

What about your son?

LHADZOM

I told him to visit his grandmother if his father comes home this weekend. He stays at school on weekdays.

GANGZHUNG

Good. Don't worry about your son.

LHADZOM'S VOICE (V.O.)

I lied to my cousin. I called my husband many times. He didn't answer. I'm sure he'll scold me if I don't ask for his permission to go to Lhasa with my relatives and friends. But I realized my husband doesn't care much about me. I don't want to tell my cousin my husband doesn't care about me. She'll pity me.

A few days later

EXT. RANGSHIK'S CAR - DAY

Rangshik gets out of his car and notices his family's locked door. Rangshik walks to the window and looks inside. He takes his phone from his pants pocket and dials it.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Lhadzom's phone rings. Lhadzom takes her phone from her jacket pocket and answers.

RANGSHIK

Where are you?

LHADZOM

On the way to Lhasa.

RANGSHIK

What? Are you on your way to Lhasa?

LHADZOM

Yes.

RANGSHIK

Who permitted you to go to Lhasa? Why didn't you tell me?

LHADZOM

I called you, but you didn't answer.

EXT. RANGSHIK'S HOME - DAY

Rangshik kicks the door.

RANGSHIK

Crazy woman! Where's the key?

LHADZOM

I left the key with a neighbor.

Rangshik kicks the door again and hangs up.

EXT. ROAD - SUNSET

Lhadzom tries to call back but then puts the phone in her pocket and resumes walking.

Gangzhung waits for Lhadzom.

EXT. GRASSLAND - SUNSET

The sun sets.

Men pitch small tents and set up three-stone hearths.

Women fetch water and dry yak dung. They make fires, and smoke rises.

They cook instant noodles and make *zamba*.

LHADZOM

When will we reach Lhasa?

OLDER MAN

A month to go.

YOUNG MAN

Great! I enjoy walking. Normally I wouldn't say I like to walk, but I enjoy walking with you.

LHADZOM

Before, I didn't know walking on green grassland across the mountains was so joyful.

OLDER MAN

You can enjoy walking for a month.

Others laugh.

EXT. GRASSLAND - NIGHT

Pilgrims sit in a circle around a big fire near their tents. They sing.



CHORUS

I want to go to Lhasa  
I want to worship the Jo bo  
Hold *khaduk* and worship ...

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Men hold bottles of water, chase women, and spray water on them.

A young man grabs a woman's hand and pulls her toward the river,  
but she slips on the riverbank and falls into the water.  
Everyone laughs.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Lhadzom and Gangzhung go to bed in a small tent.

LHADZOM

Sister, do you feel free from worry? I'm not worried about anything.

GANGZHUNG

These are the happiest, worry-free moments of my life.

LHADZOM

I don't feel tired even though my feet are a bit sore.

GANGZHUNG

My feet aren't painful. I often herd yaks on foot, so I'm used to walking.

LHADZOM

I can't sleep tonight. Can you tell me a story? I like to listen to stories.  
My paternal grandmother told me stories when I couldn't sleep as a child.

GANGZHUNG

I'm not a good storyteller. I've forgotten almost all the stories I once knew.

LHADZOM

Just tell whatever story you remember.

GANGZHUNG

Long ago, there was a princess...

EXT. TENTS - NIGHT

Lights in the scattered tents are still on. The tents are like stars in the sky on a dark night.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Pilgrims reach a mountain peak. They see a wide-open valley from the mountain. Antelopes are grazing.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Lhadzom washes her feet in a river, then joins Gangzhung, sitting under a big tree.

A gentle breeze makes the green leaves tremble.

Lhadzom is lying on the ground under the tree with outstretched legs and arms, facing the sky.

LHADZOM

I'm so happy! This journey is the happiest time of my life. I hope this journey never ends!

GANGZHUNG

Impossible. It will end in ten days.

LHADZOM

I want to take another trip again. Let's take a trip next year.

GANGZHUNG

I also want to go to Lhasa again. But I'll not be free. I have to herd yaks and do family chores. I'm not a free woman like you. I don't know if my husband will let me go to Lhasa again.

LHADZOM

There is no reason always to do whatever your husband orders.

Gangzhung looks at Lhadzon and says nothing. Other pilgrims put on their backpacks and resume walking. Gangzhung stands and packs her backpack.

GANGZHUNG

Get up. Others are leaving.

LHADZOM

Let me lie under the tree for a bit.

LHADZOM'S VOICE (V.O)

I enjoy lying under this tree, thinking about nothing, just enjoying the moment. I really hope this journey never ends. Unfortunately, it'll end soon.

Lhadzom reluctantly stands, puts on her backpack, and joins Gangzhung.

An airplane flies overhead. They gaze into the sky, observing the plane as it appears and disappears among clumps of thick clouds.

LHADZOM (points into the sky)

Wow! It's so high!

GANGZHUNG

Where is it going? Do people on the plane feel like they are flying?

LHADZOM

I don't know, maybe Lhasa or somewhere. It must feel like flying.

GANGZHUNG

I wonder what the feeling is to look down at the earth? Maybe we can see our homes, the Potala, see the whole world!

LHADZOM (stares at the plane)

Possibly. I want to be on a plane, look down at the world, and feel what a bird feels.

As the airplane disappears, they join the other pilgrims.

EXT. GRASSLAND - DAY

The pilgrims walk through the vast grassland.

## TIBETAN TERMS

Badkho, pad kho བད་ཁོ།

Baza, pat sa བ་ས།

Dawa, zla ba ཟླ་བ།

Dayjid, bde skyid བདེ་སྐྱིད།

Dayluk, bde legs བདེ་ལེགས།

Dongne, stong nyid ལྷོང་ཉིད།

Drajid, bkra skyid བརྟ་སྐྱིད།

Drala, bkra lha བརྟ་ལྷ།

Drashe, bkra shis བརྟ་ཤེས།

Drogoon, 'gro mgon འཕྲོ་མགོན།

Dzeepo, mdzes po འཛེཔ་པོ།

Gangso, gangs mtsho

གངས་མཚོ།

Gangzhung, gangs sgron

གངས་སྒོན།

Jizhun, gcig sgril གཅིག་སྒྲིལ།

Guhre, gu ru གུ་རུ།

Guhretrinlee, gu ru 'phrin las

གུ་རུ་འཕྲིན་ལས།

Hearbo, sher bo ཤེར་བོ།

Huarzeng, dpal bzang

དཔལ་བཟང་།

Jimtso, rgya mtsho རྒྱ་མཚོ།

Jowo, jo bo ཇོ་བོ།

khaduk, kha btags ཁ་བཏགས།

Kneejep, gnas skyabs

གནས་སྐབས།

Lhadzom, lha 'dzoms ལྷ་འཛོམས།

Lhamo, lha mo ལྷ་མོ།

Lhasa, lha sa ལྷ་ས།

Lumtso, klu mtsho ལུ་མཚོ།

Golo, mgo log མགོ་ལོག།

Sogon, mtsho sngon མཚོ་སྒོན།

Nahgong, ngag dbang

ངག་དབང་།

oM ma Ni pad me hU+oM

ཨོ་མ་ཎི་པད་མེ་ཧཱ།

Pakba, 'phags pa འཕགས་པ།

Rangshik, dbang phyug

དབང་ཕྱུག།

Saygoon, tshe mgon ཚེ་མགོན།

Mantang, smin thang

མིན་ཐང་།

Sodjuck, bsod grags

བསོད་གཤགས།

Tangger, thang dkar ཐང་དཀར།

Trinpo, 'phrin po འཕྲིན་པོ།

Tsomo, mtsho mo མཚོ་མོ།

Tsoyak, mtsho yag མཚོ་ཡག།

zamba, rtsam pa རུམ་པ།

## CHINESE TERMS

Guoluo 果洛

Jiuzhi 久治

Mentang 门堂

Qinghai 青海